WITH ONE VOICE

Prayers from Around the World

Compiled by

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

WITH ONE

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Pr

Compiled by
Robert Merrill Bartlett

Here is a collection of prayers, written by men and women of many nations, that will provide inspiration for young people of all countries.

The writers include poets, prophets, educators, and leaders in the struggle for peace and brotherhood: Stephen Vincent Benét, Reinhold Niebuhr, Mohandas Gandhi, Toyohiko Kagawa, Albert Schweitzer. The countries represented range from America to Europe, Africa to Asia.

There are prayers for special days; for brotherhood; for strength; for justice; of praise. All of the prayers enlighten and inspire, and stretch the mind and the heart. They deal with man's relation to God in the home and the family, in education and friendship. They represent the finest thoughts and teachings of men and women throughout the ages and around the world.

Dr. Robert Merrill Bartlett has chosen these prayers from every religious faith. Most are from Christian leaders, but all have been written by people who, though unlike in race and creed, are united in wisdom and vision.

Jacket by Robert Hallock

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WITH ONE VOICE

1962

Prayers from Around the World

BY THE AUTHOR

THEY STAND INVINCIBLE: *Men Who Are Reshaping Our World*

WITH ONE VOICE: *Prayers from Around the World*

WITH ONE VOICE

Prayers from Around the World

COMPILED BY

Robert Merrill Bartlett

THOMAS Y. CROWELL COMPANY

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✻ *With One Voice* ✻

With one voice we pray to thee.
Children of many tribes and tongues,
We have come by devious roads
To seek the reason for our being.
We are pilgrims in the eternal quest
That began when man first turned
His face to the sun, or gathered stones
To form an altar to the power
He sensed but could not comprehend.

We have gathered in temple, synagogue,
Church, and mosque in this long search
To unveil the ultimate mystery
That guides our world and moves
Throughout the fabric of our universe.
With many names we call upon thee,
By curious rites we strive to communicate.
Our creeds, our songs, our prayers
Express this universal yearning to know thee
And to grasp the unifying truth
That makes us sons and brothers.

Forgive the frailty of our words,
The inadequacy of our worship.
Accept us as we come in humility.
Reach out thy hand, O God,
And touch us with thy compassion,
That feeling thee nearer,
We may press on with courage.
Widen our horizons, that we may embrace
The spiritual discoveries of all mankind
And live as true citizens of the world.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

*

Day by Day

*

✻ *A Happy Spirit* ✻

O God, who art the source of life and the fountain of all strength and joy, make us at one with the mighty forces which move through all created things. Thou who hast made our bodies art the same God who hast made the sun and stars, the wind and waters, the cloud-capped mountains, and the fertile plains. Through thee the trees grow in the forest and the seed springs in the furrow at the touch of sunshine and of rain. So hast thou made us not for limitation but for happiness and health, that our confidence may be as the flight of birds and the lifting up of our hearts as the lark that soars and sings at dawn. Grant that we may enter into this our heritage of power and of gladness, and in body, mind, and spirit express the fulness of the life thou givest to those who look to thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE

✻ *Search for God* ✻

O God, long and wistful has been the quest of men who through countless generations have sought thee. Nor has their search been unrewarded. In differing ways and in varying degrees they have found thee. While we, our Father, have been seeking thee, thou hast been seeking us, and we have found each other in our experience of life, where the human spirit and reality meet.

Thou art closer to us than breathing, nearer than hands and feet. Thou dost speak to us, not only in the scriptures which record the experiences of our fathers in faith, but in the patient researches of the scientist and in the vision of the poet and artist. We see thee in the fair face of nature. Thou art by our side as we walk the common way. Thou hast made thyself known to us in the breaking of the common bread. We behold thee in the faces of our friends and loved ones. We hear thy footfalls in the echoing corridors of history. Wherever men aspire, suffer, and achieve, thou art to comfort and sustain.

Too often we have sought thee in the past—in a sacred literature, an ancient creed, or a long-established ritual. But we have not found thee there. These mark the places where thou hast been for other men in other days. We seek and find thee most surely in the living present where we are face to face with reality and where history is in the making.

We pray for sensitivity to make us aware of thy presence in our real and present world of nature, of the common life, and of the wide-extending universe of time and space. Clothe, we pray, our life with dignity and worth from the consciousness that we share with thee the task of bringing to fulfillment the values of thy kingdom. And in that consciousness may we find peace and strength for each day. Amen.

WILLIAM C. BOWER

✻ *For Work to Do* ✻

Master,
Give us this day hard work to do,
Work that will tax us and strain us,
Work that will stretch our muscles and engross our minds,
Work that will employ all our powers of body and intellect
and heart,
Work—above all—that will further thy cause in the world.

If our work appointed this day be study and training for life,
Reveal unto us our responsibility unto thee for the future;
Show us that we are debtors to thyself and to our fellows;
Teach us that every faculty of body and mind must be faithfully prepared,
So that, when our time comes, we may go forth fit instruments for thy service,
Weapons polished and keen, ready suited to thy grasp,
Wherewith thou mayest fight the battles of righteousness
and truth,
Vanquishing error, oppression, and wrong.

If our work be the teaching and training of others,
Then make our minds pure and humble before thyself,
That no stain of selfishness or lethargy,
Of mean purpose or of low ideals,
May mar this weighty and honorable service
Which thou in thy loving favor hast been pleased to commit
to our charge.

J. S. HOYLAND

✻ *Light and Truth* ✻

Eternal God our Father, who from chaos didst create the world, who from a weak and wandering people didst bring forth thy people Israel, who from a terrible cross didst give redemption, look thou with pity, we pray, on our torn and troubled world. We confess that by our hatreds we have alienated ourselves from our neighbors and from thee; by our preoccupation with ourselves we have lost confidence in ourselves; by our failure to seek after thee we have lost thee. But thou hast not lost us: always thy loving care condescends to our low estate and sustains an unworthy world. In grateful response may we find our way again, the way of light and truth and adoration. Teach us truly to worship thee with an undivided heart, generously to serve our neighbor's needs with eager hands. For our confusion, give clarity; for our callousness, give commitment; for our doubt, give a compelling faith. So may we walk with confidence and serenity through the tangled paths of earth, and come at last to stand before thy throne, by the power and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LISTON POPE

✻ *For a Kindly Tongue* ✻

Sharper than words are these tongues of ours,
Yet thou gavest them, O Lord,
For love and friendliness.
We ofttimes speak in haste
Heedless of the wounds we make.
Forgetful of our own sufferings
We have stained the good name of our friends,
Careless of our tongues' influence we have uttered tales
We cannot now recall.
We have let fall harsh condemnation
Where it was undeserved,
We have judged unfairly,
We have withheld words of praise,
We have twisted truth,
And made sport of others' brave endeavor.
Seeing needless pain our words provoke,
We ask a heart free from guile
That we may speak in truth and helpfulness
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GEORGE STEWART

✻ *Enable Me to Grow My Own Religion* ✻

Eternal Father, I thank thee for the religion of other people, that of my parents and friends, of my minister, of the men and women who have everywhere blessed the world through their religious life.

But now I pray thee, guide me in the growth of a religious life that shall be my own. Save me from mere satisfaction in knowing and admiring the religious life of others, or of copying their words and acts.

Lead me, O God, for myself into the meaning and power of prayer. Let me learn in my own way the message of the Bible. Guide me into the mystery and beauty of worship. Teach me the meaning of thy will in the laws of nature and in the everyday beauties and wonders of thy world. Direct me into the ways of unselfish living and of devotion to the establishing of thy kingdom in the world.

In the name of Him who has called us to come after Him and be his disciples. Amen.

PERCY R. HAYWARD

✻ *What Lies Ahead* ✻

O God, thou knowest the duties that lie ahead of us, the dangers that confront us, the weaknesses that most easily beset us. In the valiant spirit of Jesus we would dedicate to thee our studies, our friendships, our family relationships, our recreation, our leisure, our decisions, and our future, that so in thought and word and deed we may glorify thy Name, by the power of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ELMORE MCKEE

✻ *Make Me* ✻

I am only a spark
Make me a fire.
I am only a string
Make me a lyre.
I am only a drop
Make me a fountain.
I am only an ant hill
Make me a mountain.
I am only a feather
Make me a wing.
I am only a rag
Make me a king!

AMADO NERVO

✻ *Direction* ✻

You are the great God of all the earth and the heavens. We are so insignificant. In us there are many defects. But the power is yours to make and to do what we cannot do. You know all about us. For coming down to earth you were despised and mocked, and brutally treated because of the same defects in the men of those days. For those men you prayed, because they did not understand what they were doing. You came only for what was right.

Give us the courage to struggle in the same way for what is right. O Lord, help us who roam about. Help us who have been placed in Africa and have no dwelling place of our own. Give us a dwelling place. O God, all power is yours in heaven and earth. Amen.

CHIEF HOSEA KUTAKO

✻ *Morning Prayer by a Moslem* ✻

Thou art my God. To Thee I pray.
Help me by Thy Grace this day.
Ah, dear God! I would I could
Fill this day by doing good.
Teach me how to manifest
Love, in kindly manner dress'd,
Love for Thee, the One Supreme,
Love for all men, so they seem
But one brotherhood, I deem.
Make my duty seem the way
Of only happiness each day.
Take out rancor from my heart.
Let hatred find therein no part.
Unto Thee my will I bend;
For, dear Lord, I know Thou art
Source of blessings without end.

WILLIAM BASHYR PICKARD

✻ *Conquer Untruth by Truth* ✻

I am a man of peace, I believe in peace.
But I do not want peace at any price.
I do not want the peace that you find in stone.
I do not want the peace that you find
In the grave; but I do want that peace
Which you find embedded in the human breast,
Which is exposed to the whole world
But which is protected from all harm
By the Power of the Almighty God.

Let then our first act every morning be
To make the following resolve for the day:
I shall not fear anyone on earth.
I shall fear only God.
I shall not bear ill will towards anyone.
I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
I shall conquer untruth by Truth.
And in resisting untruth I shall endure all suffering.

MOHANDAS GANDHI

✻ *Consecration* ✻

O God our Father, show us that we are Thine, and that we cannot attain our real life until we give ourselves wholly to Thee. Deliver us from self-service, and from the misery of a careless and halfhearted devotion, in which we are left to struggle in a never-ending war between our lower and our higher selves. Endue us with a passionate desire for a complete consecration, that our life in all its relations may be Thine: make us little brothers of the Lord Jesus.

Accept our prayer, our Father; accomplish Thy will in us. Teach us that the yearning within us is Thy spirit, and that if we follow its light in Thy face we shall see light. Help us to read the trials of life not as the accidents of earth, but as a divine discipline for the making of our souls. Grant us victory over dark moods and faithless fears, and bring us at last to the vision where faith and truth are blended; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

✻ *I Would Be True* ✻

I would be true,
For there are those who trust me;
I would be pure,
For there are those who care;
I would be strong,
For there is much to suffer;
I would be brave,
For there is much to dare.

I would be friend of all,
The foe, the friendless;
I would be giving,
And forget the gift;
I would be humble,
For I know my weakness;
I would look up,
And laugh, and love, and lift.

HOWARD A. WALTER

✻ *Play the Game* ✻

O Lord, give us clean hands, clean words, and clean thoughts. Help us to stand for the hard right against the easy wrong. Save us from habits that harm. Teach us to work as hard and play as fair in thy sight alone as if all the world saw. Forgive us when we are unkind, and help us to forgive those who are unkind to us. Keep us ready to help others though at cost to ourselves. Send us chances to do a little good every day, and so to grow more like Christ.

WILLIAM DE WITT HYDE

✻ *The Day's Needs* ✻

Each day I pray, God give me strength anew,
To do the task I do not wish to do;
To yield obedience, not asking why.
To love and own the truth and scorn the lie;
To look a cold world bravely in the face;
To cheer for those that pass me in the race;
To bear my burdens gaily, unafraid.
To lend a hand to those that need my aid;
To measure what I am by what I give;
God, give me strength that I may rightly live!

British Weekly

✻ *A Prayer* ✻

Teach me, Father, how to go
    Softly as the grasses grow;
Hush my soul to meet the shock
    Of the wild world as a rock;
But my spirit, propped with power,
    Make as simple as a flower.
Let the dry heart fill its cup
    Like a poppy looking up.

Teach me, Father, how to be
    Kind and patient as a tree.
Joyfully the crickets croon
    Under the shady oak at noon;
Beetle, on his mission bent,
    Tarries in that cooling tent.
Let me, also, cheer a nook,
    Place for friendly bread and book
Place where passing souls can rest
    On the way and be their best.

EDWIN MARKHAM

✻ *West Point Cadet Prayer* ✻

O God, our Father, Thou Searcher of men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness, and may our worship of Thee be natural.

Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretence ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy. Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. Help us, in our work and in our play, to keep ourselves physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men. Amen.

United States Military Academy Services

✻ *Be Creative* ✻

O God, I yield my whole mind to your teaching. You are trying to teach me in many ways. In all sincere literature, in the Holy Scriptures, in history and biography, in nature and science, in life, in struggle, in my failures and successes, in pain and in joy, you seek to teach me. Humbly I exert myself to banish my prejudices and intolerances. I quiet the noise of my violent will and turn in deep reverence to use the means you offer me for touching my mind with truth and for enlarging my understanding. I wait sincerely and patiently for the still small voice of the Spirit, for the inner light. I know that the Living Spirit is working out the answer to my prayer deep within me. Because I yield my whole self to you, I know that light will come. And I shall continue in the stirring of deep, passionate desire until your light breaks upon me. Amen.

ROY WALLACE THOMAS

✻ *Music* ✻

O God, Creator of the fair world which greets our eyes and of the still fairer world of the spirit, we bless thee for the gift of music. We thank thee that through the power of song thou thyself comest to fling wide the doors of that world unseen, where thou art. We praise thee that in that sacred presence we know that though the things we see are temporal, the things we do not see—beauty and truth and goodness—are eternal. We give thee thanks that there we feel the tides of life drawing us toward the life over which time has no power; that there we learn to hate everything within us that is not fair, and long to give ourselves to make thy world the dwelling place of light.

O thou who touchest earth in men who become revealers of thine unseen beauty, we thank thee for all artists to whom has been entrusted the gift of gifts. We thank thee for those of other days who still live in their works which follow them, and still speak courage and peace to men's hearts through songs which cannot die. We thank thee for all creative spirits of our own time, and for all interpreters of music born in the souls of others. We remember with thanksgiving the multitude of men and women who have seen visions of a nobler life under the spell of music, who have found the closed doors of their spirits unlocked at the touch of song, and been moved to worship as their hearts have been lifted up to praise thee. Grant that praising thee, we may all love thee, and loving thee may serve thee evermore in the glad company of the followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

MORGAN PHELPS NOYES

✻ *Time to Live* ✻

Eternal Spirit, we turn from the noise and hurrying of life to the peace that can be found only in thy presence. Forgive us for falling under the domination of material things, for becoming dull and selfish. Forgive us for the restlessness that afflicts us, for lack of self-possession and serenity of spirit. Enter into our minds, we pray thee. Free us from serfdom to things and from confusion of thought.

O thou who transforms the hearts of those who seek thee, teach us to cultivate the quiet mind, which knows how to turn to thee in time of turmoil and be at peace.

Save us from defeat before the enemies of routine and fatigue. Save us from irritation over trivialities and overconcern with material goals. Center our thoughts upon the ordering of our minds, upon strength of character, friendship and love, service to others, the fruits of culture, and the possession of enduring satisfactions.

O God, support us in our resolution to take time to live, and inspire us to make real our professed friendship for thee. In the realm of silence and the world of action may we learn to possess a little of thy wisdom. We wait before thee with minds eager to receive thee. Still our passions, conquer our weaknesses. Come, gracious Spirit, come. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *I Need Courage* ✻

The concern I lay bare before God is my need of courage:
I need courage to be honest,
Honest in my use of words
Honest in accepting responsibility
Honest in dealing with myself
Honest in dealing with my fellows
Honest in my relations with God.
I need courage to face the problems of my own life, the problems of personal values:
They are confused,
They are often unreal,
They are too exacting for comfort;
The problems of my job:
Perhaps I am working at cross-purposes with my own desires, ambitions, equipment.
Perhaps I am arrogant instead of taking pride in doing work well.
Perhaps I am doing what I am doing just to prove a point, spending a lifetime to prove a point that is not worth proving after all.
Perhaps I have never found anything that could challenge me, and my life seems wasted.
Here in the quietness I lay bare before God my need for courage, for the strength to be honest, for the guidance to deal effectually with the problems of my own life.
O God, give me courage!

HOWARD THURMAN

✻ *Silent Communion* ✻

In this moment of silent communion with Thee, O Lord, a still, small voice speaks in the depth of my spirit. It speaks to me of the things I must do to attain holy kinship with Thee and to grow in the likeness of Thee. I must do my allotted task with unflagging faithfulness even though the eye of no taskmaster is on me. I must be gentle in the face of ingratitude, or when slander distorts my noblest motives. I must come to the end of each day with a feeling that I have used its gifts gratefully and faced its trials bravely. O Lord, help me to be ever more like Thee, holy for Thou art holy, loving for Thou art love. Speak to me, then, O Lord, as I seek Thee again and again in the stillness of meditation, until Thy bidding shall at last become for me a hallowed discipline, a familiar way of life, so that I may live on in deeds that bless other lives and leave behind me the heritage of a good name. Amen.

The Union Prayer Book for Jewish Worship

✻ *Keep Me Fair and Sound of Heart* ✻

O God, give me strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties. Let me not lose faith in my fellow men. Keep me fair and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness. Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them. Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity. Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things. Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth, inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness, and make me the arm of strength to suffering souls, in thy holy name. Amen.

Think on These Things

✻ *Give Us Lighted Minds* ✻

God of our Fathers, known of old, yet ever present in our lives today, we come to Thee in quiet trust. In Thy goodness we find a refuge from the storms that beat upon us. When we blunder into the valley of the shadow, Thou dost lead us to the sunlight on the other side. We come to Thee in prayer both weak and baffled; we go away with strength and wisdom.

We are grateful for the matchless gifts Thou hast given, the mystery of life itself, and the glory of the lighted mind.

Thou hast taught us to reason, to pursue knowledge, to search out the secrets of our unfathomable world. We thank Thee for strong hands ordained for the tasks of creation, and bent to the service of clear minds, yet made for the gentleness of tender ministry. We offer our gratitude for capacity to hear the truth in whose obedience we find our freedom, and for voices to express our joy in music, our compassion in healing words, and our convictions with power.

Teach us to use our reason, lest we lose our way in the angers that surge through our souls. Enable us to rise above the prejudices that masquerade as truth itself. Breathe, through the heats of our desire, the calm that is the token of wisdom. Save us, we pray Thee, from the weaknesses that send us like sheep to follow the crowd. Grant us the courage to stand alone in obedience to Him who flung His endless challenge from the cross. Guard us, O Lord, lest in ease and comfort we lose the leanness of abiding strength.

We would remember those who mould the public mind with voice or written word. Make them loyal to the truth, no matter what it costs. Let Thy spirit rest on those who fashion the future in positions of public trust. Grant them courage to rise above politics in the name of great principles. O guide them to Thy glorious road ahead, lest we blunder into dead-end streets. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HAROLD BLAKE WALKER

✻ *Litany of Youth* ✻

O God, who art the Good Shepherd of our souls and our Father forever, so enrich us with thy love that all selfishness may die within us. May we help one another as we have opportunity. Make us patient, brave, and strong, and fill our hearts with tenderness towards every living thing.

Hear us, heavenly Father.

Save us from untruthfulness in word and deed, and from carelessness in whatever task or duty we may have to do. Incline our hearts to obey thy commandments. Keep us pure and true. So guard us in our youth that we shall be worthy to grow old, and help us so to live that when old age comes, we shall not be ashamed to remember our youth.

Hear us, heavenly Father.

Thou knowest it is often hard for us to do right. We are afraid of what others will think or say of us, and allow ourselves to be led into wrong through weakness. Strengthen us that we may become good soldiers of Jesus Christ, and when we are tempted to play the coward may we remember that thou art near to help us.

Hear us, heavenly Father.

We thank thee for parents and teachers; may we give earnest heed to their instruction, that we may increase in wisdom and goodness. May we always remember their patience with us, and their labor of love; and save us from bringing sorrow to their hearts by evil ways.

Hear us, heavenly Father.

Father of all men, we pray that love and peace may spread among mankind; and that hatred, cruelty, oppression, and

everything that leads to misery may pass away. May men everywhere be brought to the knowledge of thy fatherly love, and learn to be gentle to weak and helpless things.

We beseech thee, hear us, heavenly Father.

Intercession Services

✻ *Sympathy* ✻

O God, who hast set the solitary in families, who dost join man to man in friendship, and who dost kindle the hearts of nations to draw near to one another, grant us the gift of understanding. Make us sensitive to all troubled, lonely, disappointed persons. Make us sympathetic with all who are bereaved, frustrated, and ill. Make us eager to bear the burdens of the unemployed, the poor, and the homeless, people of all races and classes. Teach us to bless those who curse us, to pray for those who spitefully use us, and to forgive those who speak ill of us, or reject us and pass proudly by. Take our spirits to those deep wellsprings of life eternal, where Jesus met thee face to face. Leave us ill-satisfied till thy love flows through us, and no barrier of our own mars the fulfillment of thine eternal purpose in us. Amen.

ELMORE MCKEE

✻ *A Prayer for Help* ✻

Most holy and most merciful God, the strength of the weak, the rest of the weary, the comfort of the sorrowful, the saviour of the sinful, and the refuge of thy children in every time of need, hear us while we pray for thy help.

Heavenly Father, help us.

When our faith is growing weak, and our love is growing cold, and we are losing the vision of thy face, and the spiritual world is not real to us,

Heavenly Father, help us.

When the evil memories of the past trouble us, and we mourn over early dreams and hopes unrealized, over light within us turned to darkness, and strength to weakness,

Heavenly Father, help us.

When we are tempted to mean and wicked ways, and sin grows less sinful in our sight; when duty is difficult and work is hard, and our burdens are heavy,

Heavenly Father, help us.

When the unknown future troubles us, and in our fears and anxieties we forget the eternal love and mercy; and when the last darkness shall close around us, and heart and flesh fail, and vain is the help of man,

Heavenly Father, help us.

O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright, grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all trials.

Heavenly Father, help us.

✻ *Make Me a Channel of Thy Peace* ✻

Lord make me a channel of thy peace
That where there is hatred I may bring love,
That where there is wrong I may bring the spirit of forgiveness,
That where there is discord I may bring harmony,
That where there is error I may bring truth,
That where there is doubt I may bring faith,
That where there is despair I may bring hope,
That where there are shadows I may bring light,
That where there is sadness I may bring joy,
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
To understand than to be understood;
To love than to be loved;

For
It is by giving that one receives;
It is by self-forgetting that one finds;
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven;
It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

✻ *The Holy Place* ✻

O Thou who hast visited us with the dayspring from on high, who hast made light to shine in the darkness, we praise Thy holy name and proclaim Thy wonderful goodness.

We bless Thee for the dawning of the light in far-off ages so soon as human eyes could bear its rays. We remember those who bore aloft the torch of truth when all was false and full of shame; those far-sighted souls who from the mountaintops of vision heralded the coming day; those who labored in the darkened valleys to lift men's eyes to the hills.

We thank Thee for Jesus the Star of the morning and the Light of the world. We commemorate His holy nativity, His lowly toil, His lonely way; the gracious words of His lips, the deep compassion of His heart, His friendship for the fallen, His love for the outcast; the crown of thorns, the cruel cross, the open shame. And we rejoice to know as He was here on earth, so Thou art eternally. Thou rememberest our frailty, bearest with our sin, and tastest even our bitter cup of death.

And now we rejoice for the light that shines about our daily path from the cradle to the grave, and for the light that illumines its circuit beyond these spheres from our conception in Thy mind to the day when we awake in Thy image; for the breathing of Thy spirit into ours till we see Thee face to face: in God; from God; to God at last. Hallelujah. Amen.

W. E. Orchard

✻ *Home and Family* ✻

Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank thee for this place in which we dwell; for the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day; for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth, and our friendly helpers in this foreign isle.

Let peace abound in our small company. Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and persevere. Offenders, give us the grace to accept and forgive offenders. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others.

Give us courage, gaiety, and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies. Bless us, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving one to another.

As the clay to the potter, as the windmill to the wind, as children to their sire, we beseech of thee this help and mercy for Christ's sake. Amen.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

✻ *Lord, Teach Me to Pray* ✻

Eternal Spirit, grant thou that in my prayers themselves I find the answer to the ancient petition, Lord, teach me to pray.

Let my petitions be suffused with a wise penitence for the weaknesses and sins that do so easily beset me.

Thread through my prayers the strand of gratitude for the manifold gifts of life.

Endow me with the wisdom that would ask of thee gifts of the inner spirit. Save me from seeking to bargain with thee for things.

Grant me an enlarging awareness of the resources of the spirit that came from thee. Lead me into the power of silence. Teach me the meaning of meditation. Give me a sense of wonder at the greatness of thyself, the marvels of thy world, and the sweep of thy purpose.

Tie thou my prayers, O God, to the experiences of my daily life: to its thoughts, to its decisions, and to the deeds that reveal and create my self.

Let me learn that "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed." Purify, therefore, O Lord, the desire of my soul.

When my prayer must begin with my own concerns, grant that before its end I find myself at home and at work among the unfinished tasks of thy world.

Thus, Lord, teach me to pray. Amen.

PERCY R. HAYWARD

❊ *Right Choices* ❊

Our Father in heaven, who hast so made us that we reach attainment only through striving, and who hast placed in our hearts conflicting desires, that we may learn to choose the things that are worthwhile; grant us the grace to choose aright in this and every hour of time, and in every expenditure of strength. Help us to face squarely the responsibilities that go with the moral issues of our time, and to range our personal power and influence on the side of those ideals in which we honestly believe. While we pray and work for peace in the affairs of men, may we never forget that there is no peace in the struggle against evil. Arm us with confidence in the eternal value of all that is true and beautiful and good, and give us strength every hour to do the things we know are right. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAVID E. ADAMS

✻ *Peace in the Circle of the Home* ✻

O God, our Father, the day is thine; the night also is thine. Thou wouldst have us work for thee while it is light, and when the night cometh, thou wouldst have us rest. We pray for thy blessing on our day's labor. Forgive us all that has been done amiss . . .

We thank thee for this evening, and for the joys of home and friendship. Grant that now we may forget the daily struggle, and be at peace among those who love us, and win refreshment for our own souls. As we have returned from our labor may we also come home to thee, our eternal Father, who art ever waiting to welcome us. Help us, in these quiet hours, to feel thy presence, and to know that as thou art with us in the stillness thou art always with us midst the turmoil of the world. Grant us this night thy blessed gift of sleep, and may we arise with a new hope, and a new strength and courage, and a new resolve to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ. All that we ask is in his name. Amen.

ERNEST FINDLEY SCOTT

✻ *Self-Dedication* ✻

O God, our Father, we pray that Thou show us clearly the heart of the Kingdom of God. We do not protest even if our life is destined to lead to the cross, or if the way leads to our losing our lives. We will march in the face of distress and contrary winds.

Teach us how to dispense with unnecessary things. Let us go forward without fear of death in order to fulfill our mission simply, surely, and steadily. Reveal to us our station clearly and strengthen us that we may be able to teach and guide by our example all sick persons, lepers, and even those who are ruled by evil.

We pray that Thou find us worthy to work through us. Amen.

TOYOHIKO KAGAWA

✻ *Fair Play: a Pagan Prayer* ✻

May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides. May I never quarrel with those nearest me; and if I do, may I be reconciled quickly. May I never devise evil against any man; if any devise evil against me, may I escape uninjured and without the need of hurting him. May I love, seek, and attain only that which is good. May I wish for all men's happiness and envy none. May I never rejoice in the ill fortune of one who has wronged me. When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait for the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself until I make amends.

May I win no victory that harms either me or my opponent. May I reconcile friends who are wroth with one another. May I, to the extent of my power, give all needful help to my friends and to all who are in want. May I never fail a friend in danger. When visiting those in grief may I be able by gentle and healing words to soften their pain. May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never be angry with people because of circumstances. May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow in their footsteps.

EUSEBIUS

❊ *The Way* ❊

To yield is to be preserved whole.
To be bent is to become straight.
To be hollow is to be filled.
To be tattered is to be renewed.
To be in want is to possess.
To have plenty is to be confused.

Therefore the Sage embraces the One,
And becomes the model of the world.
He does not reveal himself,
And is therefore luminous.
He does not justify himself,
And is therefore far-famed.
He does not boast of himself,
And therefore people give him credit.
He does not pride himself,
And is therefore the ruler among men.

It is because he does not contend
That no one in the world can contend against him.

Is it not indeed true, as the ancients say,
"To yield is to be preserved whole"?
Thus he is preserved and the world does him homage.

LAOTSE

✻ *True Strength* ✻

Life of my life, I shall ever try to keep my body pure, knowing that thy living touch is upon all my limbs.

I shall ever try to keep all untruths out from my thoughts, knowing that thou art that truth which has kindled the light of reason in my mind.

I shall ever try to drive all evils away from my heart and keep my love in flower, knowing that thou hast thy seat in the inmost shrine of my heart.

And it shall be my endeavor to reveal thee in my actions, knowing it is thy power that gives me strength to act.

This is my prayer to thee, my Lord—strike, strike at the root of penury in my heart.

Give me the strength lightly to bear my joys and sorrows.

Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service.

Give me the strength never to disown the poor or bend my knees before insolent might.

Give me the strength to raise my mind high above daily trifles.

And give me the strength to surrender my strength to thy will in love.

When the heart is hard and parched up, come upon me with a shower of mercy.

When grace is lost from life, come with a burst of song.

When my beggarly heart sits crouched shut up in a corner, break open the door, my king, and come with the ceremony of a king.

When desire blinds the heart with delusion and dust, O thou holy one, come with thy light and thy thunder.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

❊ *God Be in All of Me* ❊

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

Sarum Primer

❊ *Teach Us* ❊

Eternal Father, whose ear is ever open to the cry of thy children, we praise thee for thy bounty which thou didst bestow on our fathers and dost continue to show to us their children today. Exalt our hearts in gratitude and tune our souls to worthy praise, that this act of worship may be simple and sincere. We thank thee for the good things of this life: for food and raiment and shelter; for work to do and zest in the doing of it. We thank thee for the perpetual touch of the divine in life, for the image of thyself in the soul of man; for the vigor of youth, the wisdom of age, and for all the lessons of experience; for the steps by which we climb to higher things; for the courage of the brave, the indignation of the righteous, the kindness of the thoughtful, and for all that makes us men and keeps us godlike. Make us anxious and ready to serve. Teach us, Lord, how to be fully and heartily in the world, yet not of it; its salt, and not its slave. Teach us how to keep ourselves most divinely allied to the infinite, and yet responsive to the cry of the present need. Teach us how to strive and battle for the highest things, yet without bitterness. May our zeal ever be with knowledge, and our judgments tempered with mercy. Amen.

HUBERT L. SIMPSON

✻ *For Wisdom and Understanding* ✻

O God, be thou my teacher. The mysteries of life baffle me. The lessons of life so often elude my grasp. The opportunities of life so many times pass by unseen.

My mind is so dull; illumine it.

My perceptions are so hopelessly inadequate; enlarge them.

My imagination falters before the unknown; quicken its power.

My reason fails in great matters where it is most needed; strengthen its grasp of reality.

Help me to be teachable. Save me from the pride which refuses to learn and the indifference which does not want to learn. Give me the curiosity and eagerness of childhood.

Make me sensitive to the still small voice. Help me to be alert for intimations of thy will. When thou dost speak through the lips of others, help me to hear. May I discern what thou art saying through the momentous events of our time. Help me to hear thy word with ready attention and glad obedience. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALBERT EDWARD DAY

✻ *Christ the Cornerstone* ✻

Grant, O Lord, that the remembrance of the blessed life that once was lived out on this common earth, under these ordinary skies, may remain with me in all the tasks and duties of this day. Let me remember:

His eagerness, not to be ministered unto, but to minister;
His sympathy with suffering of every kind;
His bravery in face of his own suffering;
His meekness of bearing, so that when reviled, he reviled not again;
His steadiness of purpose in keeping to his appointed task;
His simplicity;
His self-discipline;
His serenity of spirit;
His complete reliance upon thee, his Father in heaven.
And in each of these ways give me grace to follow in his footsteps. Amen.

JOHN BAILLIE

✻ *To Live in This Age* ✻

From the cruse of unlimited blessing, the oil rises and overflows. Thou alone knowest the mystery, our Father.

How often I had fainted, except for thy cruse of unending grace. In Kobe's slums, in the barracks of Tokyo's settlement, Thou hast shown me as great a miracle as thou didst reveal to Elisha. Though I have never glimpsed thy face, I can see thy hand, pouring forth thy grace upon me, unworthy though I am.

It is a miracle to live in this age. All is a miracle to me—being alive, walking, eating, sleeping, praying; the stalwart mountains, the silent grasses, the singing flowers; sickness and healing and health. A miracle even is death, the mower-down, for human life ever rises up again after his scythe has passed. The natural law itself is a miracle: I cannot fathom its depth. The existence of conscience—what a miracle! Above all, the hunger of a praying heart!

Father, God, I pray without ceasing. Though I have not heard thy voice in human tones, I know that thou hast answered my prayers—and more than my prayers. Thy voice differs from the human voice. Thou speakest through history and through the highest call of conscience.

Always I hear thy voice, O voiceless one, in nature and in conscience. Amen.

TOYOHIKO KAGAWA

✻ *Companion God* ✻

Hear Thou my prayer, O God,
For inner light.
I would not ask to have
The way all bright.
Dark shall not thwart my steps
If Thou be guide.
O Thou, Companion God,
Walk by my side.

Hear Thou my prayer, O God,
For inner power.
My weakness well I know
When storm clouds lower.
Quicken my flagging zeal;
Guard me from fear;
Give me Thy courage, Lord;
Be ever near.

Hear Thou my prayer, O God,
For inner peace.
When turmoil buffets me,
Grant Thou release.
I shall walk steadfastly
On to the goal,
If Thou, Companion God,
Strengthen my soul.

GEORGIA HARKNESS

✻ *To Realize My Talents* ✻

Wonderful Lord of all creation, thy universe is ever full of surprises—gorgeous sunsets of myriad colors, starlit heavens touching eternity, scientists in laboratories uncovering hidden wonders, heroic men and women of Christlike devotion making their environments like thy kingdom. I know that my life has latent possibilities, to be gloriously realized as I harmonize my will with thine.

May I spend my experience in thrilling, abundant living, rather than feel that I must live out my years with drudgery. May I welcome this day with a feeling of great adventure with thee. May my spirit be mastered by thy spirit, thus to know the meaning of thy kingdom within me. Strengthen me to be thy emissary to help others find the joy and strength of thy spirit. Amen.

THOMAS S. KEPLER

✻ *To Give and Not to Count the Cost* ✻

Teach us, good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IGNATIUS LOYOLA

✻ *A Litany of Friendship* ✻

O Spirit of Grace, who hast tempered the rigor of this present world with the loveliness of friendship, we rejoice in our friends,

Thanks be to thee, O Lord.

For the encouragement of their love, the support of their confidence, the faithfulness of their counsels, and the warmth of their affection,

Thanks be to thee, O Lord.

For those most singular and blessed gifts of friendship—power to keep faith with our own souls; to walk cleanly amid the soil and bravely amid the disheartenment of life; to believe in our best in the face of failure, and in extremities to be of excellent hope,

Thanks be to thee, O Lord.

For friends, living on earth and departed hence, whose love has been our peace and strength; for the beauty of their lives through which thou hast shined upon us like the sun through eastern windows; and for thy Christ who called us not servants, but friends,

Thanks be to thee, O Lord.

Because our sins hurt not ourselves only, but our friends, we are ashamed and penitent. For hasty temper and thoughtless word, for lack of kindliness and understanding, and for all disloyal dealings, open or secret, whereby we have betrayed those who trusted us,

We repent before thee, O Lord.

We stand in awe before our power to sway the lives and control the happiness of those who love us. For all misuse of

friendship to untoward ends, for unbelief that mars a friend's faith, for low tastes which drag him down, for miserable moods which cloud his skies, and for all unworthy living which roughens his spiritual journey,

We repent before thee, O Lord.

Because friendship is so excellent a grace, widen its domain, we beseech thee. Reclaim from violence and strife the relationships of races and nations; redeem them from suspicion and prejudice to good will and trust. O Sun of Righteousness, shine on our fierce and wayward world, and lighten its path to brotherhood.

Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us this blessing.

Make our human friendships, we beseech thee, a revelation to our souls of thine unfailing love. Despite the mysterious dealings of thy Providence, the sternness of thy laws, and the severity of thy just visitations, may we walk by faith in thy friendliness. Enfold us in thy grace, support us by thy power, establish us in thy fellowship, and grant us the crown of life, that we should be the friends of God.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and grant us this blessing. Amen.

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

✻ *A Litany of Health and Healing* ✻

O Father, who didst make man body, soul, and spirit;

Make us temples of thy Spirit, we beseech thee.

O Christ who in thy great compassion, didst take upon thyself our hunger, pain, and weariness, and didst heal our diseases;

Grant us thy compassion and healing.

O Holy Spirit, who dost quicken our mortal bodies, helpest our infirmities, and dost cleanse and quicken us;

Have mercy upon us.

By thy human sympathy, by the touch of thy hand, by thy power over all evil, and by the voice which healed the sick and brought life and power;

Good Lord, deliver us.

If we have broken thy laws of health; if we have been ignorant and careless of thy commands; if we have brought suffering upon ourselves or upon others, by impurity or intemperance;

Lord, forgive us our sins.

If we have despised and neglected our bodies; if we have misused and enslaved our minds; if we have allowed our spirits to become a prey to worry, distrust or despair;

Forgive us, Lord.

If we have abused thy gifts of food and drink; if we have rejected the remedies of nature; if we have neglected the healing powers of the mind; and if we have forgotten thee, the divine Physician;

Forgive us, Lord.

We pray for thy blessing upon all doctors and surgeons, all nurses and attendants, upon all who seek to make mental and material conditions of healing; that thou wouldst grant them knowledge and skill, sympathy and courage, tenderness and patience;

Hear us, we beseech thee, O Lord.

Book of Common Worship

✻ *Our Example* ✻

O God, we thank thee for the life and teaching of Jesus; for the new ideals and new hope that he has given to mankind; for his inspiration to the struggling, his comfort to the fallen; for all the strength and vision which he gives to those who try to spread his spirit on earth. Help us to be more truly thankful for all that his life has meant; and grant that we may thus more worthily strive to follow him and make his love known among men.

Westminster School Order of Prayer

✻ *For the Fatherhood of God* ✻

O thou great Father of us all, we rejoice that at last we know thee. All our soul within us is glad because we need no longer cringe before thee as slaves of holy fear, seeking to appease thine anger by sacrifice and self-inflicted pain, but may come like little children, trusting and happy, to the God of love. Thou art the only true father, and all the tender beauty of our human loves is the reflected radiance of thy loving kindness.

Grant us growth of spiritual vision, that with the passing years we may enter into the fulness of this our faith. Since thou art our Father, may we not hide our sins from thee, but overcome them by the stern comfort of thy presence. By this knowledge uphold us in our sorrows and make us patient even amid the unsolved mysteries of the years.

As thou art ever pouring out thy life in sacrificial father-love, may we accept the eternal law of the cross and give ourselves to thee and to all men. We praise thee for Jesus Christ, whose life has revealed to us this faith and law, and we rejoice that he has become the first-born among many brethren. Grant that in us, too, the faith in thy fatherhood may shine through all our life with such persuasive beauty that some who still creep in the dusk of fear may stand erect as free sons of God, and that others who now through unbelief are living as orphans in an empty world may stretch out their hands to the great Father of their spirits and find thee near.

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

✻ *Surrender* ✻

All that I am not, and desire to be,
God is.
Weary I am, but he is at rest,
Helpless, but he is all-powerful,
Ignorant, but he is wisdom eternal,
Selfish and self-centered, but he is love.

Cold is my heart, but his is on fire,
And dark, but in him is no darkness at all,
And fearful, but perfect love casteth out fear.

Sinful I am, but he is all-holy,
Greatly tempted, but he is secure,
Doomed to die, but he liveth.

A child I am, and he is my father,
A penitent, and he is my saviour,
A wayfarer, and he is my guide,
A sinner, and the chief of sinners, but he is
My God, and my all. Amen.

NATALIE VICTOR

✻ *I Believe* ✻

O my God, I believe
That Thou art good and great, perfect in wisdom and in love,
And that Thou lovest me.
O my God, I believe
That Thou art present here, in all Thy power and in all Thy love,
Ready to answer my prayer.

O my God, I hope
To be made perfect, wholly free from shortcomings.

O my God, I hope
To see Thee face to face, with all Thy Saints
Without sin and without shame.

O my God, I love Thee
Not as I ought to, not as I want to,
But Thou who knowest all things, knowest the weakness and the shame of my heart.
Thou knowest that I love Thee.
Grant me grace to love Thee more,
For Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.

G. A. STUDDERT-KENNEDY

✻ *For the Handicapped* ✻

O God, we thank thee that thy initial gifts to us are of such bounty that even when we are deprived of some of them, enough remain to suffice us. We thank thee also for the compensations of life, where one door is closed but another opened, where something is taken away but something else given in its stead.

Especially do we praise thee for those of thy children who have suffered loss and made it gain, experienced defeat and made it victory. If it be so, that we are in the possession of full health and strength, then challenge us to greater service by the amazing example of those who have done so much with so little, and if we ourselves bear the outward marks of pain or the invisible wounds of heavy strife, encourage us to go forward yet again, in dependence upon thy help so freely available to all. Amen.

JACK FINEGAN

✻ *For the Poor and Lowly* ✻

Infinite Spirit, we sense that holiness, purity, and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any one religion. All faiths have produced men and women of exalted character. We have sought and found thee by different roads. Help us to accept and understand one another, to do more than tolerate those who differ from us. May we share with them as equals and learn from them.

O divine reality, help us to accept all religions of the past and worship with their followers. May we sense that thy divine book of truth is not finished, but is still being formed as a continuous revelation. We know as we pray to thee that the Bible, the Vedas, the Koran, and other sacred books are but so many pages in thy book of truth, and an infinite number of pages remain yet to be unfolded.

Upon the banner of every religion may new mottoes be written to replace the conflicts of the present: "Help and not fight," "Assimilation and not destruction," "Harmony and peace, not dissension." Lift us above all narrow, limited, fighting ideas of religion. Teach us to embrace all that is good and great in the life of mankind. Help us to fraternize as fellow seekers with equal shares in truth.

May we behold thee not only in the prayers of the temple but also in the struggles of thy children, the ragged, the dying, the miserable people of the earth. Make us disciples of renunciation, of love that lifts our fellow men. Quicken

us until we sense that millions are starving today, and have been starving for ages, that ignorance has crept over the land like a dark cloud. Make us restless, sleepless, until we forget name, fame, and property and give ourselves to the poor and oppressed!

SWAMI NAREN VIVEKANANDA

✻ *Direction* ✻

Almighty and everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, who hast created us for Thyself, so that we can find rest only in Thee; grant us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing Thy will, no weakness from doing it; that in Thy light we may see light clearly, and in Thy service find perfect freedom.

Eternal Pity, have mercy upon us.
Eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance.
Eternal Light, shine into our hearts.
Eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil.
Eternal Power, be our support.

Grant us, with all our heart and soul and strength and mind, evermore to love and obey Thee; and finally, in Thy mercy, bring us to Thy nearer presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, be glory and praise, world without end. Amen.

The Book of Common Order

✻ *Gratitude* ✻

O God, who hast permitted us to see this new day and to greet its light in thy house, we lift up our hearts in grateful praise of thy goodness toward us. But how can we honor thee worthily, how thank thee as we ought, even for the least of thy mercies? We know not what to render thee for all thy benefits. And yet must we not confess that often in the enjoyment of thy gifts we forget the giver, and because of the frequency and abundance of thy blessings, we fail to appreciate the greatness of thy bounty? Truly, we feel our ingratitude and are ashamed of it; the more so, since we are ready to murmur against thee and to question thy goodness, when our wishes are not fulfilled and days of trial are meted out to us.

Help us, O God, to maintain within ourselves a constant spirit of gratitude toward thee, to remember that not in words and songs alone should we express our thankfulness; our deeds should speak thy praise; our willingness to share thy blessings with others should testify to our gratitude. In prosperity may we not be tempted to say: My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this abundance; but may we remember that it is thou, O God, who givest strength to acquire substance.

O may our hearts never be so carried away by material success that we make idols of wealth, station, or pleasure, and in striving after them become estranged from thee. May every new blessing bring us nearer to thee and make us more fervent in our devotion to thy service, more faithful to our duties, and more helpful to our fellow men. Amen.

The Union Prayer Book for Jewish Worship

✻ *The Great Adventure of Living* ✻

Make us ready for the great adventure of living. We do not pray for immunity from risks; we pray for courage to face risks. We do not ask to be saved out of the world; we ask for strength to ally ourselves with the saviours of the world.

Among the immediate problems of personal life, give us courage to face the facts which confront us without evasion or self-deception; to atone for our blunders, not by repentance only, but by braver determination and decision.

Among the perplexities of daily life give us equanimity and self-control, that we be not the slaves of circumstances but their masters, with the exhilaration of conflict and the joy of victory.

We pray that the adventure of living may be guarded and sustained by an undefeated patience, willing to wait for new light and to reenforce duty by loyalty. Arm us for the campaign of life with an unperturbed faith and unconquered hope. Amen.

FRANCIS GREENWOOD PEABODY

✻ *An Unconquered Heart* ✻

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy thought can drag downward; an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon me also understanding to know thee, diligence to seek thee, wisdom to find thee, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace thee.

THOMAS AQUINAS

✻ *On the Source of Cheerfulness* ✻

We rejoice in the exultation of all created things; in the echo of human hearts to all pure and lovely things, and we rejoice in Thine ineffable garments of things bright and glorious, O Thou Who art the Sun of Righteousness and the Light Eternal.

We rejoice in the example of Thy life on earth, in sharing of our common joys, in Thy loving and understanding the wonders of earth and sea and sky.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the promise of life, youth, and the dawn of the unknown, in the hope and the assurance of fulfilment, and we beseech Thee to preserve our youthful zeal fervent and pure.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the glory of manhood and womanhood, in the strength of wisdom, and in the security of experience, and we beseech Thee to sanctify our knowledge with a power to make response.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the sweetness of companionship, in the joy of understanding hearts, and in the faith of strong souls, and we beseech Thee to interpret for us the wonder of human friendship.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in every measure of attainment, in the wholesome satisfaction of worthy accomplishment, and we beseech Thee to stimulate in us a joy in the dignity of work.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the pleasures of art, of music, and of literature, the enrichments of personality; and we beseech Thee to restore unto us a full value of beauty.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice, O Lord, in the sway and impulse of emotion, the laughter that alternates with tears, and we beseech Thee to help us dispel every misunderstanding with good humor.

We will rejoice and serve God and be cheerful for ever.

We rejoice in the calm assurance of Thy presence, O Fountain and Light of Life Immortal; we beseech Thee to crown Thy gifts with Thine Eternal Peace.

Amen! Alleluia! Amen.

Acts of Devotion

✻ *Vision and Duty* ✻

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, whose son our saviour taught us to pray that thy name be hallowed, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done; give us strength to be humble before thy greatness and ever to reverence thee in all thy acts of love towards us; give us vision to see the glories of thy Kingdom, that all who love thee may love their neighbors as themselves; and help us, O God, by thy Holy Spirit to do our duty to thee in thought, word, and deed to the utmost of our power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GEOFFREY F. FISHER

✻ *Pilot Us, Defend Us* ✻

May the strength of God pilot us.
May the power of God preserve us.
May the wisdom of God instruct us.
May the hand of God protect us.
May the way of God direct us.
May the shield of God defend us.
May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations of the world.
May Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ in us, Christ over us.
May thy salvation, O Lord, be always ours, this day and for evermore.

"SAINT PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE"

✻ *For Spiritual Blessings* ✻

Father and King,
We pray thee for the quiet mind
Which, in the midst of hurry and turmoil,
Can at any time turn directly to thyself,
And be immediately at peace.

We pray thee for the enlightened imagination
Which gazes through form and delusion to reality,
Perceiving unerringly, of its own keen piercing insight,
Those eternal truths of the spirit
Which lie behind the pasteboard scenery of this world.

We pray thee for the mastered will
Which attunes us spontaneously and unconsciously to thy
will.

We pray thee for the life which is hid in thee,
The life that demands nothing for itself
But is wholly content in showing thee forth to men.

We pray thee for the stalwart faith,
Which gives unto us, whilst still we live here amongst men
The facts and substance of eternal life
In a reality far beyond all other reality,
In a knowledge far transcending the knowledge of touch and
sight.

J. S. HOYLAND

✻ *Seek the Truth* ✻

O God, who hast ordained that whatever is to be desired should be sought by labor, and who, by thy blessing, bringest honest labor to good effect: look with mercy upon our studies and endeavors: grant us, O Lord, to design only what is lawful and right, that in humility of mind we may seek the truth, and in gentleness of heart may serve our generation, and at length may win thee, O Lord, who art everlasting treasure. Amen.

SAMUEL JOHNSON

✻ *The Gift of Life* ✻

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we thank thee for the gift of life. We pray that thou wilt grant us the wisdom to use our talents to thy glory and to the benefit of our fellow men. Help us never to be content with our second best. Give us courage to stand alone in defense of the right if occasion demands. Fill us with compassion for those in need. Above all may we be conscious of thy indwelling spirit to strengthen us day by day.

We ask this in the name of thy son Jesus Christ, a young man who lived, died, and rose again for us all.

BISHOP HENRY KNOX SHERRILL

✻ *My Prayer* ✻

For knowledge without arrogance,
Which into wisdom grows;
For faith that spite of circumstance
Forever brighter glows;
For hope that never doubts all gates
Must open toward the good;
For love that labors while it waits
For worldwide Brotherhood;
For eyes to see the beautiful
Triumphant through the wrong;
For ears that never grow too dull
To catch the heavenly song;
For patience that no dread delay
May curdle into fright;
For joyfulness that laughs by day
And counts the stars by night;
For strength to do my humble part,
Whate'er that part may be;
And for a God-surrendered heart—
I raise my prayer to Thee.

MERRELL VORIES HITOTSUYANAGI

✻ *A Morning Prayer* ✻

O Thou who art the Light of life, we thank Thee for the light that greets us at the dawning of this new day. Shine with Thy morning upon our souls. Search us as Thy sun searches the darkness. Scatter the shadows of our selfishness, and make the sky of our feeling and thought clear and bright. May our life be full of quickening and gladdening light to others, that both we and they may be children of the light and of the day.

O Thou whose goodness is infinite, we bless Thee that in our unconscious hours the world is so rich and full of blessing. In the quiet of the night when we sleep Thy moon and Thy stars shine above us in the heavens. Thou dost not leave us in darkness at any time. Thou fillest our whole world and life with Thy presence. In our saddest and sorest experiences, we are not left comfortless.

Lord of our life! Thou hast again called us to our daily round of toil and care. We would go forth like Thy sun with brightness, seeking only to do good, to learn, obey, and love Thy will, and to help and make happy our fellows all through the hours of this day as becometh disciples of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

O Thou in whom there is eternal peace and harmony, silence the discords of our lives, rebuke and destroy our selfish passions and aims, and win us and all men to the obedience of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JOHN HUNTER

✻ *Another Day* ✻

Father of all, to speak thy name brings quiet and order and humility. Thou knowest with what confusion of energies I have begun the day, eager to do, to feel, to strive, quick to criticize and condemn, easily irritated and easily angered. Thou knowest how much I need to be mastered and controlled, that the vigor which this bright morning has awakened in me may be conserved and administered to its better purposes and in its higher and more productive ways.

Let the thought of thy service, which awaits my strength, take full possession of my heart and mind. Give me, early in the morning, the wisdom to see my day's duty in its true outline and nature, all that it demands of me, all that it offers me; and give me grace to consecrate myself unto that duty, that there may be no vagrancy of purpose, no dissipation of strength, no waste of time or thought, but a true alignment of all my forces unto a high calling all the day long.

Bless me in all that I shall attempt this day. Be at hand with thy spirit to inspire and to stimulate as long as work continues, and to comfort and refresh when weariness creeps upon me, and to approve and reward with thy heavenly gifts of peace and inner brightness when work is ended, and the healing night invites me to rest. Amen.

CHARLES E. PARK

✻ *In the Morning* ✻

O Thou, who art the true sun of the world, ever rising and never going down; who by thy most wholesome appearing and sight dost nourish and gladden all things in heaven and earth: We beseech thee mercifully to shine in our hearts, that the night of darkness and sin and the mists of error on every side being driven away by the brightness of thy shining within our hearts, we may walk all our life without stumbling, as in the daytime, and being pure and clean from the works of darkness, may abound in all good works which thou hast prepared for us to walk in. Amen.

DESIDERIUS ERASMUS

✻ *Morning Light* ✻

We bless and praise and magnify thee, O God, who hast led us out of the shadows of night once more into the light of day. Unto thy loving-kindness we make our entreaty; be merciful to our misdeeds; accept our prayers in the fullness of thy compassion, for thou art our refuge from one generation to another, O merciful and almighty God. Grant that the true sun of thy righteousness may so shine in our hearts, enlighten our reason, and purify our senses, that we may walk honestly as in the day. For thou art the fountain of light, and in thy light shall we see light.

A prayer of the early Greek church

❊ *Morning* ❊

O God,
I thank thee for the gift of another day.
May I meet the unspent hours that are ahead
With brave heart as one who puts his trust in thee
And trusting is unafraid.
May every thought be pure and every purpose holy.
Make me generous in spirit, tolerant in judgment,
Unselfish in all human relations.
Keep back the hasty or the careless words
And may nothing that I do or say wound or harm another.
May I meet life courageously,
Bearing with patience the hope deferred
And the dream unrealized.
With a simple faith and a constancy that is unshaken
May I do thy holy will,
Finding in living a knowledge of thy truth
And walking with joy in the paths of peace. Amen.

ALFRED GRANT WALTON

✻ *The Kindly Mantle of Night* ✻

O God of light and darkness, grant that as the kindly mantle of night covers the face of the earth, the sun of thy peace may continue to shine within our souls.

Thou Helper of all mankind, aid us to so live throughout our days, that when the evening shadows fall we may not be shamed or haunted by the memories of evil deeds or the ghosts of neglected opportunities.

Thou Source of infinite mercy, speak peace to all troubled souls, support the weak and guide the strong, protect our homes, care for our loved ones near at hand and far away, in this world and on the other shore.

O thou Shepherd of the sheep, watch over us this night, give us rest and untroubled sleep, that we may rise to dedicate another week of labor to the glory of thy name, and the joy of our fellow men, walking in the footsteps of our risen Lord. Amen.

Prayers for Divine Worship,
Presbyterian Church of Scotland

✻ *At Close of Day* ✻

O Lord our God, we come at the close of the day to thee, our Eternal Light, our refuge in all generations. We thank thee for thy power, so unimaginably great, greater than our failure, our sin, or our rebellion. Most of all do we thank thee for thy love, which all our foolishness has never tired; the love which makes thy dealings with us mercy; the love that one day shall gather every wanderer home. Come, as noiseless as the light, and steal within. Brood upon the deep with peace and calm. Touch us with thy hand that we may turn and see thy face.

Like a pillow to tired heads, like light to watching eyes, be thou our God to us this night. As stars come out when the sun goes down, and voices which were drowned in the noise of the day are heard in the silence, so let us be silent now until thy presence grows more real, and we find both doubt and desire but heralds of thy drawing nigh. Amen.

W. E. ORCHARD

✻ *An Evening Prayer* ✻

Almighty God, whose voice is best heard not in earthquake or wind or fire but in the stillness of our prayers, speak now in silence; and so grant us the gift of thy Spirit that our restless spirits may find peace—and then share thy peace.

We come burdened by failure. Yet the burden proves that we are made of thee for better things. We have been sharp tongued when we should have been patient and falsely patient when we should have spoken a brave word. We have been swift to blame our world and all too slow and blind to our own faults. We have been content while the heavenly vision has faded into the light of common day. We have lived as though Christ had never lived or died or broken the bonds of death. Now we come home to thee because we are tired of ourselves. Receive us, we pray, despite all our undeserving, and cleanse us, and give us a new heart.

We come with praises on our lips. How little we can do or earn; how much thou hast given! We cannot make seedtime and harvest, or grace of simple friendship, or the prophet's word, or the coming of Christ, or the life everlasting! Yet these thou dost give, good measure, pressed down, running over! Keep us from the shabbiness of our complaints, deepen our gratitude, and teach us to live among our fellows with glad love.

We come with prayers in behalf of all men. We pray thee to guide and guard this nation and all peoples, to bless men in their toil and to sustain thy Church. We pray for the

sick and for the untroubled, for friend and for foe, for strangers and for those we love. Thus praying, we claim thy promise that as our days so shall our strength be—until we reach thy shining country where beyond these voices there is peace. For we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

GEORGE A. BUTTRICK

✻ *After Taps* ✻

Grant me the gift of untroubled sleep, O Lord. If I have wronged any man this day, give me courage to admit and rectify that wrong tomorrow. If I have fallen short of my obligations in any way, speak to my conscience until I have made amends. If I have failed in my duties to those at home, turn my thoughts more often toward family and friends, that remembering their solicitude for me, I may not overlook the messages of reassurance and affection which they expect.

So having committed myself and those I love to thy continued care, grant me thy gift of quiet rest. Amen.

Think on These Things

✻ *A Prayer for Sleep* ✻

Eternal and Everlasting God,
In the growing quietness of the evening and the deepening shadows of the night,
Grant us sleep and rest.
With the stilling of the day's doings, and the end of coming and going about us,
Make us to be sleepy with heavy eyes and tired limbs.
As Thy creatures are lying down in the wood,
As the bird is quiet in its nest
And the wild thing in its hold,
May we in our sleep reflect our confidence in Thee,
And our assurance of Thy constant peace.
In our sleep give us that deeper communion of our souls with Thee
Which restoreth unto health.

O God, Thou great Companion,
Do Thou watch over us in our sleep.
May our minds be purified,
And our bodies renewed;
But especially do Thou watch over those we love:
May Thy peace bear them up,
And Thy presence preserve them,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RUSSELL L. DICKS

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Earth, Sea, and Sky

*

✻ *We Thank Thee* ✻

For all the wonders of this wondrous world;
The pure pearl splendors of the coming day,
The breaking east—the rosy flush—the Dawn,
For that bright gem in morning's coronal,
That one lone star that gleams above the glow;
For that high glory of the impartial sun—
The golden noonings big with promised life;
The matchless pageant of the evening skies,
The wide-flung gates—the gleams of Paradise—
Supremest visions of thine artistry;
The sweet, soft gloaming, and the friendly stars;
The vesper stillness, and the creeping shades;
The moon's pale majesty; the pulsing dome,
Wherein we feel thy great heart throbbing near;
For sweet laborious days and restful nights;
For work to do, and strength to do the work;
We thank thee, Lord!

JOHN OXENHAM

✻ *God Give Me Joy* ✻

God give me joy in the common things:
In the dawn that lures, the eve that sings.

In the new grass sparkling after rain,
In the late wind's wild and weird refrain;

In the springtime's spacious field of gold,
In the precious light by winter doled.

God give me joy in the love of friends,
In their dear home talk as summer ends;

In the songs of children, unrestrained;
In the sober wisdom age has gained.

God give me joy in the tasks that press,
In the memories that burn and bless;

In the thought that life has love to spend,
In the faith that God's at journey's end.

God give me hope for each day that springs,
God give me joy in the common things!

THOMAS CURTIS CLARK

✻ *An Act of Praise* ✻

Let us praise God:

For the day, for the glory and warmth of the sun, for the stir of life, and for honest toil that wins food and rest.

God be praised for the day.

For the earth, the sustainer of life; for the hills, the plains, and the dales; and for the beauty of meadows and fields, of flowers and of trees.

God be praised for the earth.

For the sky, for the shifting clouds, and for the glory of sunrise and sunset.

God be praised for the sky.

For the sea, that yields and receives again the water without which life would die, and is wonderful in its stillness and more wonderful in its storm.

God be praised for the sea.

Let us praise God:

For our food, and the pleasures he has given us in it, lest we should neglect the needs of life; may he help us to shun all waste and to rejoice in sharing with others.

God be praised for our food.

For the shelter from wind and weather, which hallowed by love becomes our home; may he strengthen our will that no one shall go hungry or ill-housed or ill-clad.

God be praised for our home.

Let us praise God:

For our fathers and mothers, by whom he orders lives and comforts hearts, bringing strength to a house and sweetness to labor; may he hallow their work and direct their ways.

God be praised for good fathers and mothers.

For the gift of children; may he help us to train them to be reverent and truthful, that they may gladden our hearts and bring joy to the world.

God be praised for children.

For good friends to rejoice with us in our joys, to cheer us in trouble and to lighten our tasks; may he help us to repay them in fellowship and service.

God be praised for our friends.

Let us praise God:

For joy that heightens all our life and doubles our powers; may he help us to kindle it in the hearts of others by the gladness of our face.

God be praised for joy.

For mirth, that unites us with others and refreshes us for our work; may he help us to keep it kind and true.

God be praised for mirth.

For health, bringing wholesomeness of body and mind; may he help us to give our strength to his service.

God be praised for health.

Let us praise God for life.

All praise be to God. Amen.

The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory

✻ *The Canticle of the Sun* ✻

Most high, most great and good Lord, to thee belong praise, glory, and every blessing!

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for the gift of all thy creatures; and especially for our brother, the sun, by whom the day is enlightened. He is radiant and bright, of great splendor, bearing witness to thee, O my God.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for our sister the moon, and for the stars; thou hast formed them in the heavens, fair and clear.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for my brother the wind, for the air, for cloud, and calm, for every kind of weather, for by them thou dost sustain all creatures.

Blessed be my Lord for our sister water, which is very useful, humble, chaste, and precious.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for our brother fire, gay, noble and beautiful, untamable, and strong; by whom thou dost illumine the night.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for our mother the earth, who sustains and nourishes us, who brings forth all kinds of fruits, herbs, and bright-hued flowers.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for those who pardon for love of thee, who patiently bear infirmity and tribulation. Happy are those who abide in peace, for by thee, Most High, they will be crowned.

Blessed be thou, my Lord, for our sister death of the body, from whom no living man can escape.

Happy are they who at the hour of death are found in obedience to thy holy will.

Praise ye and bless ye my Lord; give him thanks, and serve him with great humility.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

❊ *A Prayer for the Seeing Eye* ❊

O God, our heavenly Father, we praise thee for the vast world in which we live, for its grandeur and orderliness and for its rich abundance of creative energy. We thank thee for the constancy of physical processes, for the graces born of human sympathy, and for the streams of life that are ever renewed. Keep us sensitive to the tokens of thy larger concerns. Save us, we beseech thee, from becoming so hardened by traditions, so dulled by established routines, and so constricted by selfish projects, that we pass our days blindly, when even the dust at our feet is animated by thy sustaining presence.

T. A. BURKILL

✻ *The Gift of Living* ✻

Oh, Lord, I thank you for the privilege and gift of living in a world filled with beauty and excitement and variety.

I thank you for the gift of loving and being loved, for the friendliness and understanding and beauty of animals on the farm and in the forest and marches, for the green of the trees, the sound of a waterfall, the darting beauty of the trout in the brook.

I thank you for the delights of music and children, of other men's thoughts and conversation and their books to read by the fireside or in bed with the rain falling on the roof or the snow blowing past outside the window.

I thank you for the beauties of the four seasons and of the churches and the houses built by fellow men that stand throughout the centuries as monuments to man's aspirations and sense of beauty.

I thank you for the powers of mind which find in the universe an endless and inexhaustible source of interest and fascination, for the understanding of so many elements which make life the most precious of gifts.

I thank you for all the senses you have bestowed upon me and for the delights which they bring me. I thank you for my body itself which is so wonderful and delightful a mechanism.

I thank you for the smile on the face of a woman, for the touch of a friend's hand, for the laughter of a child, the wagging tail of a dog and the touch of his cold nose against my face.

I thank you for all these things and many more, and above all I thank you for people with all their goodness and understanding which so far outweigh their vices, their envy, their deceits.

Thank you, God, for life itself, without which the universe would have no meaning.

LOUIS BROMFIELD

✻ *An Act of Praise* ✻

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works: in wisdom hast Thou made them all;

The earth is full of Thy riches.

For the green fields; for flowers and opening buds, and the white seas of blossom;

Sing praises.

For sun and cloud; for rain and dew; for the wind among the trees;

Glory to God.

For near glimpses of rare beauty, and distant views that rest the sight;

Sing praises.

For leafy vale and open moorland; for the mounting field-path and the winding lane;

Glory to God.

For rivers that reach out to the sea; and for the sea that runs in to welcome the rivers;

Sing praises.

For the old forest and the younger woodland; for the strong and silent guard of ancient hills;

Glory to God.

For the smiling plenty of the farm, and the simple ways of the homestead;

Sing praises.

For the joys of field and river; for the zest of sturdy games; for the long trail, and the open sky over all;

Glory to God.

For comrades and true friends; and for the love of man and maid in honor given and kept;

Sing praises.

For laughter and kind faces; for proven worth and Christian chivalry, and life's adventure calling—calling.

Glory to God.

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works: in wisdom hast Thou made them all;

The earth is full of Thy riches.

The Rodborough Bede Book

✻ *The Out of Doors* ✻

We thank thee, O Lord, for the things that are out of doors; for the fresh air and the open sky and the growing grass and the tiny flowers and the setting sun and the wooded hill and the brown earth beneath our feet. They are all good and they all speak the truth, and we rest ourselves and get new strength to go back to the world of restless men. Keep us ever like thy good world, rugged and wholesome and true. Amen.

Outdoor Prayers, Dartmouth College Outing Club

✻ *A Collect for Beauty* ✻

Father in Heaven, we thank thee for all this world of thy providence, so fertile in wonders, so rich in beauty to every hungering sense of man. We thank thee for thy loving-kindness and thy tender mercy, while thou with equal care watchest over the sparrow's fall, and holdest all worlds in thine arms of never-ending love. We thank thee for the beauty which thou bringest forth in every stream of water, on every hillside, and that wherewith thou fringest the paths of men as they pass to their daily work. We bless thee for the beauty which thou gatherest in the lily's fragrant cup, clothing it with a kinglier loveliness than Solomon ever could put on in all his glory.

But we thank Thee still more that in a tenderer and lovelier and holier way thou revealest thy loving-kindness, and thy tenderness, and thy holiness to thy children. Thou hast endowed us with senses to receive the world of sight and sound, and to be fed and beautified therewith. Thou hast given us spiritual powers which lay hold of justice, and truth, and love, and faith in thee. Thou hast fed our souls with thyself. Lord, what shall we render to thee for the least of these thy mercies? We pray thee that we may live as blameless as the flowers of the field; that our lives within may be as fragrant, and without as fair, and that what is promise in our spring, what is blossom in our summer, may, in the harvest of heaven, bear fruit of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offices for Special Occasions

✻ *As Thou Art in the Trees* ✻

Our Father, we thank thee for the beauty of this New Year's Day. We thank thee for the New Year's decoration of pine, bamboo, and plum placed at each gateway. They turn our thoughts to thee for they have been chosen from thy generous store of natural beauty.

Teach us this year to learn their meaning and their message to us. Like the pine may we be unchangingly steadfast. Like the bamboo may we bend without breaking during the storms and when the storm has passed may we be straighter and stronger. Like the inconspicuous plum flower blooming among the falling flakes of snow may we bloom courageously and give fragrance to the air about us, reminding men that spring is near.

As thou art in the trees giving life and strength and beauty, be in our hearts that we may glorify thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

TOYOHIKO KAGAWA

✻ *The Spirit of Wonder* ✻

O God, who hast made this fair world and given it to all men richly to enjoy, help me never to grow dull to all its wonder. Because so many of its glories are familiar, let me not forget how wonderful they are. Keep my eyes open to the beauty of blue sky, to the changing pageant of the clouds, to the silver mystery of moonlight and to the majesty of silent stars. May I feel in every sunrise a daily miracle of life and light renewed, and in every sunset a pledge of thine unfading light without which we cannot face the dark. So may no single day be common, but may each one bring the benediction of its immortal brightness to my soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE

✻ *Like the Stars* ✻

O God, thou art holy, like snow upon Mt. Everest that climbers seldom reach. I can begin to reflect thy shining purity.

O God, thou art strong, like a mountain river moving irresistibly to the sea. I can let some of thy strength flow through me.

O God, thou art lovely, like clouds at sunset transfiguring the sky with unspeakable glory. I can be irradiated with color, too.

O God, thou art true, like the stars that never waver from their course. I can hold firm and unyielding to what is real.

O God, thou art friendly, like the sun that ever warms the green and singing earth. I can be friendly to the soul of man.

O God, thou art compassionate, like the blood within our veins always removing poison, always healing cruel wounds. I also can bring reconciliation into the world. Amen.

ALLAN A. HUNTER

✻ *An Act of Thanksgiving* ✻

Praise ye the Lord.

Bless ye the Lord; praise and adore
And magnify Him evermore.

For the heavens that declare Thy glory, and for the earth that Thou hast made so fair,

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the glory of Thy sunshine and the clear air; and for health to enjoy them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the shapes of the hills and the trees; for the colors of the flowers and of the sea; and for sight to enjoy them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the songs of the birds and of the streams; for the music of the laughing voices; and for hearing to enjoy them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For the legends and books of all the ages; for the poems and songs of the heroes; and for a mind to enjoy them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For those who have vanquished evil; for their faith and hope and courage; and for the power to follow them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For those who have loved us and cared for us, and asked only our love in return; and for a heart to love them;

We thank Thee, O Lord.

For Jesus, our Mighty Deliverer and King; for a heart to love Him and a life to give Him;

Bless ye the Lord; praise and adore
And magnify Him evermore.

The Rodborough Bede Book

✻ *Thanksgiving* ✻

Creator of life and light, we bless thee this day for the beauty of thy world, for the first radiance of dawn and the last smoldering glow of the sunset. We thank thee for physical joy, for hills to climb, and hard work to do; for all skill of hand and eye; for music that lifts our hearts in one breath to heaven; for the hand-grasp of a friend; for the gracious loveliness of children. We thank thee above all for spiritual beauty and joy, for home-love, for mother-love, for child-love; for the exceeding bliss of the touch of thy hand awakening suddenly our drowsy souls into blessed awareness of thy presence with us and in us: For all these, thy sacraments of beauty and joy, we thank thee, our Father and our God.

Acts of Devotion

✻ *The Prayer of a Camper* ✻

God of the hills, grant me thy strength to go back into the cities without faltering,
Strength to do my daily task without tiring and with enthusiasm,
Strength to help my neighbor who has no hills to remember.

God of the lake, grant me thy peace and thy restfulness,
Peace to bring into a world of hurry and confusion,
Restfulness to carry to the tired one whom I shall meet every day;
Content to do small things with a freedom from littleness;
Self-control for the unexpected emergency and patience for the wearisome task;
With deep depths within my soul to bear with me through the crowded places:
And the laughter of the sunny waves to brighten the cheerless spots in a long winter.

God of the stars, may I take back the gift of friendship and of love for all.
Fill me with a great tenderness for the needy person at every turning.
Grant that in all my perplexities and everyday decisions I may keep an open mind.

God of the wilderness, with thy pure winds from the northland, blow away my pettiness;
With the harsher winds of winter drive away my selfishness and hypocrisy;

Fill me with the breadth and the depth, and the height of thy wilderness;
May I live out the truths which thou hast taught me by every thought and word and deed.

The New Hymnal for American Youth

✻ *May My Eyes Behold the Sunset* ✻

O Father, whose voice I hear in the winds and whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me. I am a man before you, one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets. Make my hands respect the things you have made, my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people—the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, Father, not to be superior to my brothers, but to be able to fight my worst enemy, myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eye, so that, when life fades as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

TOM WHITECLOUD

✻ *Trees* ✻

Great Lover of the Beautiful,
We ask for nothing more than to be like a tree.
Trees have so much to teach us:
They were Thy first temples:
Before man defaced and denuded them with his ruthless greed,
Thou didst walk in the cool of the day,
In the shade of the trees of life and knowledge.

There is a brotherhood of trees.
From birth they teach us the lesson of unity.
They stand at their best when they stand together.
They are strong in their collective strength.
There is harmony in their group living.
Together they have faced and weathered the storms of time.
Their leaves have always been for the healing of the nations.
Their touch has a curative effect on tired bodies.
Their shelter and their shade have brought peace to many troubled minds.
Their trails have led us to retreats where the soul has found its God.

We know from fond recollection that there are tongues in trees.
We need to understand their language.
We need to listen to their message.
They have been the sentinels of the ages;
They have seen civilizations come and go;
They have witnessed the drama of time;

They have watched whole generations of men and nations
pass off the stage of life;

They have the message we sorely need,
If only we would take the time to understand their language.
They have so much to teach us in the art of living;
There is so much healing in their company for the wounds
of the world;
They are so patient, so lovely, so fruitful;
They have so much of God in their living.
We ask that we may learn from the trees.

CARADOC J. MORGAN

✻ *Wonder of the World* ✻

O God, we thank thee for everything:
For the glory and beauty and wonder of the world;
For the glory of springtime, the tints of the flowers and their fragrance;
For the glory of the summer flowers, the roses and cardinals and clethra;
For the glory of the autumn, the scarlet and crimson and gold of the forest;
For the glory of winter, the pure snow on the shrubs and trees.
We thank thee that thou hast placed us here
To use thy gifts for the good of all.

O God, we thank thee for everything.
For the sea and its waves, blue, green and gray and always wonderful;
For the beach and the breakers and the spray and the white foam on the rocks;
For the blue arch of heaven; for the clouds in the sky, white and gray and purple;
For the green of the grass; for the forests in their spring beauty;
For the wheat and corn and rye and barley.
We thank thee for all thou hast made and that thou hast called it good;
For all the glory and beauty and wonder of the world.
We thank thee that thou hast placed us in the world to subdue all things to thy glory,
And to use all things for the good of thy children.

EDWARD EVERETT HALE

Prayers for Special Days

✻ *The New Year* ✻

Eternal God, who hast revealed thyself to the ever-changing lives of men in a Word that stands fast forever: Speak now to our hearts as we wait here on the threshold of changing years. Remind us of all thy mercies which have shown forth thy love, and turn our faces toward thy coming. For every fleeting glimpse we have had of thy glory, for every prompting of conscience, for the light that shines on the pathway of duty, for the reasonableness of faith and the persistence of hope, for all thy bounty in the past and for every promise thou hast made for the future, we thank thee—for the dreams we have had, and the voice we hear, the presence and power of thy Spirit like the breath of wind on water, for the Christ whose daily companionship unites our lives, we thank thee.

We confess our unworthiness before thee. Forgive us, we pray thee, and be gracious to us still. Trouble us anew with thy Word and Presence. Torment us until we die with the difference between what we are and what thou wouldest have us be.

Hold before our eyes that pure will of thine until we learn to choose it above all the wealth and esteem of the world. Establish us again in the truth which we have known so long yet ever comes to us from the lips of Jesus like freshly awakened memories. Restore in us all that we have believed and lost awhile—planned once when life was at its morning but given over now—until once more we find joy for our sorrow, and for our weakness a strength that is not our own. Enter into our lives, and prove thyself with the beauty which

we may yet make familiar on earth. Give us of the mind and heart of Christ and, whatever it may cost, of thy goodness, peace at the end of our days.

Send us now to our tasks again. What thou hast planted in our hearts, through the days to come, bring to our lips in praise and to our hands in compassion.

Teach us to speak kindly, act gently, bear ourselves gladly and hopefully, asking of thee no more than thou wilt ever freely give, and ever, in the asking, pledging thee our faith and eager obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost be glory and dominion both now and ever. Amen.

PAUL SCHERER

✻ *The New Year* ✻

And He that sitteth upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new! Cast away from you all your transgressions, and make you a new heart and a new spirit.

Almighty God, the unfailing Source of light and mercy who hast brought us to the beginning of this year, and art sparing us to love Thee and to keep Thy commandments; prepare us, we beseech Thee, for the coming days. Let Thy grace enlighten our darkness, and strengthen our weakness. Help us to forget the sins and sorrows of the past, cherishing only the wisdom and the humility they may have taught us. Inspire us with new purposes and new hopes. Deepen within our hearts the love of truth and goodness. Renew in us the life of that which alone makes life worth living. Enable us to discern the solemn meaning of these earthly days, and the high and sacred purpose for which they are given. Suffer us not to be unfaithful to Thee. Thou hast richly blessed us hitherto: still lead us by Thy hand: still admonish and guide us by Thy Spirit; and leave us not to ourselves, thou Good Shepherd of the Sheep. Let not our sin take from us the thought that we are Thine. Let not the sorrow and weariness of life nor the darkness and mystery of the world rob us of our faith in Thee. Whatever light may shine or shadow fall, keep us in the fellowship of those who trust and obey Thee, and in the love and service of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JOHN HUNTER

✻ *A Prayer for the Year* ✻

Let me live simply,
Casting out care,
Anchored to duty,
Friendship and prayer.

Let me live freely,
Bursting self's bars,
Comrade of gardens,
Music and stars.

Let me live faithfully,
Loyal to all—
God—and the children—
Brutes, great and small.

Let me live hopefully,
Child of the morn,
Foe of the doubter,
Hater of scorn.

Let me live bravely,
Tenderly, too—
Till, at the twilight,
Life's dream comes true.

THOMAS CURTIS CLARK

✻ *The Cross* ✻

Eternal Father, in the shadow of the cross we worship and bow down, subdued by a mystery beyond our fathoming, and awed by a love greater than our hearts. When we think of Jesus, we are melted by an unutterable tenderness; and the shadow that waits for every man, from which none escapes, no longer darkens our faith and obscures our hope. Something in him, something in his life and death, lets a light into our darkness and a joy into our sorrow.

Humbly we pray for the valor of true faith, and the power of a loving spirit, that we may be little brothers of the heroic, all-enduring Christ. If he accepted his cross as a sacrament at thy hand, let us not think that we are in the grasp of a blind fate that knows not nor cares, but read our sorrows as the will of one who is shaping us for a holier ministry. When sorrow comes, may it teach us a truth deeper than joy can know, sanctifying us to thee.

At the altar of prayer we yield our spirits to thy spirit, to be led to finer issues, to be taught of thee in the truth as it is in Jesus, to be trained for thy higher service. Make clean our hearts; unveil thy love to us that in its clear shining we may see the meaning of life and serve thee in faithfulness and joy. Amen.

JOSEPH FORT NEWTON

✻ *Easter* ✻

O Thou who didst make the stars and turn the shadow of death into the morning, we praise thee for the coming of spring, for the resurrection of Jesus' spirit over pain and death, and for the assurance that Easter brings to our lives.

With the opening of flowers and the hallelujahs of praise, we know that our loved ones who have passed through the gateway of death live with thee in a more abiding world. Because of His conquest, we know that love is immortal; that death is only a horizon, and a horizon is only the limit of our earthly sight. Lift our vision, that we may see beyond the changes of time to the things that never pass away.

Give us faith to realize that every truth that is trampled down by evil and every ideal that seems to be buried in darkness will rise again. We know that right will prevail over wrong and life will overcome death. Awaken our minds to the glory of Easter morning. As Jesus conquered the shadows of the tomb, so may we overcome the evils that keep our lives from being what they should be. Attune our thoughts to songs of victory, that we may be one with the company of those who live with thee in eternal joy. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *Litany of Commemoration* ✻

Almighty and everlasting God, before whom stand the spirits of the living and the dead, light of lights, fountain of wisdom and goodness, who livest in all pure and humble and gracious souls; for all who have witnessed a good confession for thy glory and the welfare of the world; for patriarchs, prophets, and apostles; for the wise of every land and nation, and all teachers of mankind,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For the martyrs of our holy faith, the faithful witnesses to Christ of whom the world was not worthy, and for all who have resisted falsehood and wrong unto suffering or death,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For all who have labored and suffered for freedom, good government, just laws, and the sanctity of the home, and for all who have given their lives for their country,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For all who have sought to bless men by their service and life, and to lighten the dark places of the earth,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For those who have been tender and true and brave in all times and places, and for all who have been one with thee in the communion of Christ's Spirit and in the strength of his love,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For the dear friends and kindred ministering in the spiritual world, whose faces we see no more, but whose love is with us for ever,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For the teachers and companions of our childhood and youth, and the members of our household of faith who worship thee now in heaven,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

For the grace which was given to all these, and for the trust and hopes in which they lived and died,

We praise thee, O God, and bless thy name.

And that we may hold them in continual remembrance, that the sanctity of their wisdom and goodness may rest upon our earthly days, and that we may prepare ourselves to follow them in their upward way,

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

That we may ever think of them as with thee, and be sure that where they are, there we may be also,

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

That we may have a hope beyond this world for all thy children, even for wanderers who must be sought and brought home; that we may be comforted and sustained by the promise of a time when none shall be a stranger and an exile from thy kingdom and household,

We beseech thee to hear us, O God.

In the communion of the Holy Spirit, with the faithful and the saintly in heaven, with the redeemed in all ages, with our beloved who dwell in thy presence and peace, we, who still fight and suffer on earth, unite in ascribing,

Thanksgiving, glory, honor, and power unto thee, O Lord our God.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory

✻ *All Saints Day* ✻

Almighty God, who holdest in thy hand the souls of the righteous; we give thee thanks and praise for all the generations of the faithful who have served thee here in godliness and love, and who dwell forever in thy presence. We bless thee for all who have enriched the world with truth and beauty, who have labored in the service of their fellows, who have done great things for thee and for thy church, and have handed on to us our gracious heritage.

We bless thee for all near and dear to us, for our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters, for those who have helped and defended and loved and cherished us. Grant that all the good we have seen and known in them may continue to inspire and guide us, that we may always love them and hallow their memory, and that when we have fulfilled our time on earth we may have part with them in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Order

✻ *America* ✻

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Amen.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

✻ *Memorial Day* ✻

God of our fathers and our God, who hast touched our hearts with awe of gratitude, and hast opened our ears to voices not of our world,

We bless thee, on this day of high and holy memory, for the ways in which thou hast led us as people. For every lofty impulse that has stirred us in years gone by to nobler living; for every dream that has lifted us above sordid ways and pointed us beyond narrow loyalties we give thee the praise, whose Spirit hath set us upon this better path.

In the presence of that mighty host of heroes, by whose sacrifice we have entered into our heritage, we praise and bless thee for their courage in face of danger, and for their steadfastness in the hour of peril, which shame us out of our petty self-concern.

O Thou, who art never weary of setting us free from the bonds that stifle our souls: for the fire of Thy Spirit that kindles the flame of freedom in the soul of every man, every nation, every race; for the vision of thy Kingdom, beckoning men in all ages to hold justice dearer than comfort, and liberty above life, we praise Thy holy name, whose gift of liberty is ours to use or to abuse.

Grant that we thy children may enter more worthily into our heritage and heed thy call to devotion. Forgive us, if by indulgence or cynicism we are tempted to make vain the sacrifice which others have laid upon thine altar.

As they died to win liberty for the bodies of men, so may we live to bring fairer justice for their souls. As they shed their blood thinking thus to wipe away the curse of war, so may we labor more prayerfully for an enduring peace.

May we bear malice toward none, though our hearts burn beneath the injustices of our time. Grant us more charity for all, that we may be made firm in the right, and may follow more closely in the way of Christ our Leader. Amen.

THEODORE HUME

✻ *Veterans' Day* ✻

We thank thee, God of our fathers, for the founders of America and for all those who, through the centuries past, have sacrificed in peace and war for our nation.

While we give thanks for the peace that is ours, our hearts are heavy with sorrow. We lift up our voices with multitudes of others against our common foe of war.

We pray for those who still mourn loved ones lost in past conflicts and for comrades who still suffer in hospitals and asylums. We pray for victims in many lands: homeless children, exiles, and refugees who walk the everlasting road of suffering. Comfort and aid these unhappy people, O God.

Guide, we pray thee, the statesmen of our country and of all nations. Give to them and to us the patience to understand viewpoints different from our own, to be tolerant and willing to sacrifice our national loyalties for the greater good of humanity.

Turn us from misguided ways. Redeem us from fear, hatred, and bloodshed. Grant that the divided peoples of the earth may reach beyond fortresses and propaganda and join hands in cooperation.

As we have sacrificed together to preserve ourselves in time of war, so may we work together to establish international order. Restore our broken world to the ways of peace, we implore thee. Show us what we may do to help

mankind, and through us create the will to peace. Draw all men unto thee and one to another by the bonds of brotherhood. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *Harvest Time* ✻

Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew; we yield thee unfeigned thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering in of the fruits thereof, and for all the other blessings of thy merciful providence bestowed upon this nation and people. And, we beseech thee, give us a just sense of these great mercies; such as may appear in our lives by an humble, holy, and obedient walking before thee all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, world without end. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

✻ *Thanksgiving* ✻

For all the things for which we have never given thanks to thee, O Lord, we humbly bow our hearts. For common things of earth which sustain our bodies in health and strength, though we pay scant attention to them, we give thee thanks. For far-off things in the ages past or in lands distant from us which enlarge our heritage and expand our horizon, we give thee thanks. For invisible things of heaven and earth which sweeten life with beauty and grace, we give thee thanks. For things of the spirit which disclose to us the beauty of thy holiness and sanctify the passing time with eternal meaning, we give thee thanks. For things bought with a great price, given to us without cost, by which we are deepened and heightened to the measure of Christ our Lord, we give thee thanks. Though there be no end to thy gifts, help us to number them as they are revealed to us day by day. Amen.

SAMUEL H. MILLER

✻ *Thanksgiving* ✻

O God, our Father, strong and just:
For the sun that warms us and the air that gives us the breath of life,
With grateful hearts we thank thee.
For bracing wind and quickening rain,
With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For all the beauty of earth in field and hedgerow, brook and covert, woods and hills,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For the changing seasons, each in its order beautiful,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For our homes and our friends,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For health and vigor of body and mind,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For the roofs that shelter us, and the beds that give us rest and sleep,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For this good land of our birth, the land we love,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For freedom and just laws,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For the lives and examples of the good and brave among our own people,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For good men and women of every age and every race,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

For the life on earth of Jesus our pattern, who came to show us how to live,

With grateful hearts we thank thee.

Jubilate Deo

✻ *National Thanksgiving* ✻

Almighty and merciful Father, we praise thee, humbly and reverently, for all that thou art or ever hast been to this nation. We render our thanks that thou hast chosen us to fulfil so great a purpose in the world, and we confess that we have fallen far short of thy glory. We thank thee for all our material prosperity and for our great Republic, beseeching thee to give us grace to use our opportunities for the furtherance of thy honor among those nations who know thee not. Above all else we thank thee that thou hast brought us to the knowledge of thy dear Son, our Lord, and hast given us the means of knowing and possessing the manifold gifts of grace which thou dost provide for men through him. We thank thee for all the holy men and women who have served thee faithfully in their generation amongst us, and who have shone as lights in the world for our example. We thank thee for the inventions and discoveries of art and science and for all the treasures which thou hast put at the disposal of mankind. Pardon us for all our misuse of thy gifts and help us to live in the sincere spirit of dependence upon thee for all things, seeking thy Kingdom and righteousness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offices for Special Occasions

✻ *Christmas* ✻

O Thou eternal Spirit, we praise thee that thou dost mysteriously wait to touch with light and fill with love the hearts of those who wait before thee. We praise thee that thou hast made this day glad and this night bright with the memory of the birth of one who revealed the might and gentleness of thy spirit. We praise thee that, in the fullness of time and in thine own way, thou didst cause one to walk the dusty roadways of this world; he who was indeed the Son of thy Spirit and the shadowing forth in flesh of thy tender love. Accept our gratitude, offered in joy, for this wondrous showing forth of thy love. Grant that on this day, when we rejoice in the nativity of Jesus the Christ, our hearts may be made humble like his heart, and our spirits filled with desire for thy quickening Spirit; and that our lives, like his, may be so ordered before thee that they shall show forth thy praise. We bless thee. We glorify thee. We give thee thanks that heaven and earth are so full of thy glory. Amen.

A Book of Worship for Free Churches

✻ *Christmas* ✻

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desire with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

✻ *Holy Communion* ✻

Our Father, we thank thee for this sacred moment when, with multitudes of fellow believers throughout the world, we draw near to this holy table. Knowing that Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us, we would keep the feast, not with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

We come in penitence. Create within us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Restore unto us the joy of thy salvation.

Enlarge our understanding of the wideness of this fellowship about thy table which binds together all Christendom throughout the world and throughout all the generations—all apostles and saints and martyrs—all races and nations and creeds—the eternal company of those redeemed by thine everlasting mercy.

We pray for peace among the nations. Bless all those organizations and institutions everywhere now working for better understanding, social justice and righteousness among men, in order that enduring peace may come to our world.

We remember before thee the homeless and the hungry; the sick and the sorrowing; the destitute and the despairing. Use us for the relief of their sufferings.

Graciously be made known again to each of us in the breaking of the bread; and grant that the hands which have folded in prayer this day may be opened to deeds of compassion in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

World Wide Communion Service

✻ *Ode to Freedom* ✻

God save the Rights of Man!
Give us a heart to scan
Blessings so dear;
Let them be spread around
Wherever man is found,
And with the welcome sound
Ravish his ear.

The world at last will join
To aid thy grand design,
Dear Liberty!
To Russia's frozen lands
The generous flame expands;
On Afric's burning sands
Shall man be free!

In this our western world
Be Freedom's flag unfurl'd
Through all its shores!
May no destructive blast
Our heaven of joy o'ercast,
May Freedom's fabric last
While time endures.

If e'er her cause require,
Should tyrants e'er aspire
To aim their stroke,
May no proud despot daunt—
Should he his standard plant,
Freedom will never want
Her heart of oak!

PHILIP FRENEAU

For Peace Among Nations

✻ *The Way of Heroes* ✻

O God, I may live without air and water, but I cannot live without thee. How can the little crawling creatures of the earth possibly measure thy greatness, boundless love, and infinite compassion? How can I grasp thy greatness so forgiving and divine? O God, thou art truth and love, the source of light, yet far above and beyond all these. Thou art the searcher of hearts, transcending speech and reason. I long to see thee face to face. It is only through love and nonviolence that I touch thy spirit.

I thank thee that history proves that love is the greatest good, that love is the chief attribute of the brave. I sense as I pray that it is a weapon of matchless potency, not a wooden and lifeless dogma, but rather a living and life-giving force. I know that hatred kills while love upbuilds. All great teachers have taught that love is the way. Help me to believe in and follow this law of life. Help me to uphold its rule in daily living until its practice becomes universal and thy spirit guides the world. Help all men to extend the reign of love to the life of their nations and the affairs of all mankind.

Make me wise enough to grasp the power of nonviolence, that I may practice truthfulness, humility, tolerance, and loving kindness. Teach me that nonviolence is the way of heroes, not of cowards, that soul force is infinitely superior to brute force. Eternal spirit, give me living faith in thy love and wisdom, that I may apply love to all relations with my fellow men until I exclude no one, hate no one, and treat all men as brothers. Amen.

MOHANDAS GANDHI

❊ *Reverence for Life* ❊

O God, amid the riddle of existence with its suffering and confusion, help me to hold fast to the will to live. May I assume my share of the pain and struggle of mankind and help care for those who are in misery and distress. Give me strength to help carry the burden of those who live in the fellowship of pain. When pessimism and despair oppress, help me to cling to belief in the power of love. Grant me a world view that embraces all who bear pain throughout the world. May I follow a life of compassion in pity for the suffering of all living things.

Teach me to live with reverence for life everywhere, to treat life as sacred, and respect all that breathes. O Father, I grope amid the shadows of doubt and fear, but I long to advance toward the light. Help me to fling my life like a flaming firebrand into the gathering darkness of the world.

DR. ALBERT SCHWEITZER

✻ *Justice* ✻

Our Father, we are thy children on earth. Rich and poor, black and white, Jew and Gentile, native and alien, friend and enemy—we are all alike the heirs of thy providence and the recipients of thy love. As thou hast done for us, so we should do for one another. But we have been selfish and cruel, and unrighteously have sought to serve not thy will but our own.

We confess before thee, O God, the sins of which we have been guilty. We have corrupted government, exploited labor, oppressed women and little children, preyed upon the weak and helpless, ground the faces of the poor, done public injustice for private gain. These are our hands, stained with the evil of our deeds. Behold our hearts, impure with sordid desires for place and profit. The world, which thou hast made so fair, we have defaced. Our country, which thou hast so richly blessed, we have defamed. Woe be unto us, that wickedness has so prevailed among us.

But thou art patient, O God, and strong to save. Thy righteousness is mighty upon us, and cannot fail. Thou art building thy kingdom in the hearts of men as from the beginning of the world, and seeking our aid as fellow-laborers with thee. So would we turn to thee, to plead thy forgiveness as we cleanse the dark places of our lust and pride.

Help us to strive to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thee in the way of righteousness. Throughout the world we would deliver men from inequality, indignity, and oppression. We would end poverty and war,

establish freedom and security, and drive fear from every heart. We would reward the labor of men's hands with prosperity, and the love of men's souls with peace. This would we do in that commonwealth of man which shall be thy kingdom come at last upon the earth.

In thy name, and for thy sake, we ask thy help. Amen.

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

✻ *In an Atom-Conscious World* ✻

Eternal God, author of life and love, flood our hearts with thy divine light so that we may find our way to liberation from the encircling darkness of this atom-conscious world.

We have sinned against thee because we have lost our vision of the oneness of the human family. Teach us, O Father of all mankind, how to work for the reconciliation of divided humanity through mutual forgiveness and trust.

Lead us, we beseech thee, to the ultimate salvation of all mankind through the realization of a universal brotherhood of love.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace. Amen.

HACHIRO YUASA

❊ *A New Order* ❊

I believe in God, who is for me spirit, love, the principle of all things.

I believe that God is in me, as I am in him.

I believe that the true welfare of man consists in fulfilling the will of God.

I believe that from the fulfillment of the will of God there can follow nothing but that which is good for me and for all men.

I believe that the will of God is that every man should love his fellow-men, and should act toward others as he desires that they should act toward him.

I believe that the reason of life is for each of us simply to grow in love.

I believe that this growth in love will contribute more than any other force to establish the Kingdom of God on earth: To replace a social life in which division, falsehood, and violence are all-powerful, with a new order in which humanity, truth, and brotherhood will reign.

I believe that the will of God has never been more clearly, more freely expressed than in the teaching of Jesus.

I believe that this teaching will give welfare to all humanity, save men from destruction, and give this world the greatest happiness.

LEO TOLSTOY

✻ *A Call to Prayer* ✻

O God, Creator of the universe, who hast given to man as a home this world of law and order, we ask forgiveness for all we have done to create lawlessness and disorder. Take from us, men and nations, the selfishness and pride that beget strife and stifle love. Rouse us to pray and work for that unity of mankind that rises above all nations to world brotherhood. And especially we pray for the delegates of the United Nations. Give to these men and women a sense of thy providence and a knowledge that the good of all people must come before the good of any single person, race, or nation. Amen.

A Call to Prayer for United Nations Delegates

✻ *Lift My Eyes to Far Horizons* ✻

God of the wide distances of the world, lift thou my eyes to far horizons.

Forgive me that I have been so much absorbed in the narrow borders of my own small life.

Grant me to see the long course of history out of which my single self and this vast world have come.

Show me the great men who have lived in the days gone by and those who are alive today.

Let me look into the future "far as human eye can see," and make the events of the world of tomorrow a part of my plans and hopes today.

Show me what happens in distant places of the earth among strange and far-off people.

Tear me loose—with a wrench and pain, if need be—from what is so near that it binds and narrows my soul.

Bring that which is far away close, because I see and understand it.

In the name of Him who encompassed all lands and centuries in his mind and purpose. Amen.

PERCY R. HAYWARD

✻ *Light in Hours of Darkness* ✻

This is my soul's sincere desire: eyes to see and ears to hear, and a heart to understand; eyes to see earth's wondrous beauty and sordid ugliness; ears to hear exquisite harmonies and the groans of the anguished; a heart to rejoice in the good and the true, and to suffer with the sorrowing; faith to see light in hours of darkness; hope to expect triumph in the moment of defeat; love to appreciate those who would do me harm, and concern to persist in good will; conscience to register what is right and steel-ribbed will to do it; a penitent spirit and pure habits; courage to struggle on and daring to attempt the needful; buoyant anticipation of vistas over the hill; contentment of being, and peace of mind and soul passing all understanding.

This is my soul's sincere desire: to hunger for God as a deer longs for water in a thirsty land; to open every window of my soul that He may give guidance, bestow power, and make of my life a benediction; to yield myself utterly to the living Christ and follow wherever He leads at whatever cost; to be His voice in proclaiming the gospel of good news; His hands in serving tables of the needy; His feet in running errands of mercy; to live with quiet trust in Him which cannot be shaken; to face death unafraid, sustained by confidence in the character of God to insure man's resurrection. This is my soul's sincere desire—at least there are hours when I wish that I were possessed by this yearning. Help thou me, O God, until I want this more than all else that I desire.

KIRBY PAGE

✻ *A Litany of Uplifting* ✻

O God, our Father in heaven,

Have mercy upon us.

From the listlessness and sloth which spoil our work and our prayer, and hold us back from Thee,

Deliver us, O Lord.

From surrender of hope and aspiration; from depression and disloyalty; from impatient questionings of Thy goodness; from sullen murmuring at Thy commands,

Deliver us, O Lord.

From dullness of vision; from dryness of spirit; from lack of graciousness in conduct,

Deliver us, O Lord.

From drifting, and contentment with things as they are; from absorption in the routine of life; from misuse of Thy gifts; from deafness to Thy calls,

Deliver us, O Lord.

From self-conceit and self-consciousness; from readiness to take offense, and carelessness in causing it,

Deliver us, O Lord.

Father of mercies, God of Truth; hear our prayer, and the power to appreciate all good

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Increase of faith in Thee and in our fellows

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Willingness to work for others, and with others,

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Readiness to keep silent before Thee, and to wait upon Thy word,

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Clear guidance as to what we should do, and when we should do it,

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Patience in time of doubt, and growth in the knowledge of Thy truth,

Grant us, we beseech Thee.

Gracious God, make us, we pray Thee, ever gracious and easy to be entreated: never let us fall into a peevish or contentious spirit, but follow peace with all men—offering forgiveness, inviting them by kindness, being ready to confess our own errors, apt to make amends, and desirous to be reconciled. Grant that no sickness or accident, no employment or weariness, may make us angry or ungentle or discontented or unthankful or irritable. Give us the true spirit of Christians, that we may be charitable, merciful, and meek, useful, generous, and alert to seize every opportunity of service. So may we dwell in Thy love and be Thy children through Jesus, our Lord. . . .

The Rodborough Bede Book

✻ *Courage to Follow New Paths* ✻

Almighty God, eternal love and ever-present source of light, what words are these we take upon our lips? Can it be true that thy kingdom will come and thy will be done on earth?

Yet how can we pray for thy kingdom while we labor not for its coming? How dare we hope for a sign in the heavens while we cloud the skies with our engines of destruction? Of what avail are our prayers that thy will be done if we turn from the cross and arm ourselves with the weapons of this world?

Our Father, we are sore perplexed. By what means are we to meet oppression and throw down arrogant pride that lays waste the hopes of men? Must we, too, rely on evil to strike down evil? Is there no other way by which thy children can meet the legions of this world save as we use its weapons? Has the cross failed, and is the upraised sword the sign of the nations' freedom from the rule of tyrants?

Our hearts are filled with conflicts. Make thy way more plain to us, and show us the means thou wouldst have us use to establish justice and peace among men. Give us a clearer vision of thy will and renewed courage to follow Christ in this confusing hour. Amen.

S. Ralph Harlow

❊ *Beyond Ourselves* ❊

O God, our Father, our hope is of thee and in thee, and our sufficiency is of thee and in thee. Our wisdom is slight, our strength is weakness. Often we are beset behind and before, and we know not which way to turn. Whence can we go, O God, but unto thee from whom our help comes?

We are children of privilege. The knowledge of the ages is within our grasp. The experience of all the past is available to us. New instruments, new tools, that multiply by a thousand the power of the individual, are ours. Yet what good use have we made of these things? What new insights have we gained? What visions of a new world have possessed our souls? What urge to create in our time the society of God on earth has led us to throw caution to the winds and venture our all in a supreme endeavor for the cause of God and humanity?

Bring to us, O God, a new conviction of sin. Give unto us the power not only to analyze but to construct. And wherein we fail when we have done our best, reassure our hearts with the confidence that the battle is not alone ours, but God's, and our sufficiency is of thee. Amen.

WADE CRAWFORD BARCLAY

✻ *The Search for Truth* ✻

Eternal God, who hast promised us the liberty which follows after truth; grant that, keeping the commandments of Christ, we may have the mind of Christ and be free, as he was free.

For all who guard the truths which were known of old, that, as good stewards of that knowledge, they may confirm us in simple and righteous living;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For those who seek for new truth, that, believing more light is yet to break, they may be sustained in their searching by the faith that thou art, and that thou art the rewarder of them that diligently seek thee;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For all scientists, looking upon the face of nature, that they may see order in its variety and law in its constancy, and may teach men to live upon earth in confidence and without fear;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For all historians, that, telling again the story of the past with sincerity and sympathy, they may bind the generations together in one communion of thy real sons;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For all builders, poets, painters, and makers of music, that they may open our blind eyes and unstop our deaf ears to the beauty of thy world;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For all who would lead man's long thoughts beyond the things that are known into the world which is unknown, that their faith may prepare for us a place in the infinite mystery;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For all who unselfishly bring their knowledge to the service of the world, that they may prove their learning by their works, and give that vision without which the people perish;

We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

For ourselves in this society of the truth, that accepting with gladness the high offices of thought, that seeing clearly and feeling deeply we may go forth to be in the world as those who serve, and may thus know that mind of Christ which we would make the manner of our thinking; and all these things we ask in his Name, even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WILLARD L. SPERRY

❊ *Humility* ❊

If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, O Lord, who would stand? Enter not into judgment with thy servants, for in thy sight is no man living justified. In thy presence, our Father, our disguises and pretenses do not avail, and under the light of thy holiness we know ourselves for what we are. Have mercy upon us. Give us grace to see our faults more clearly that we may truly repent.

We confess the sorry confusion of our common life to thee. The nations are still at war with one another, each nation seeking its own advantage. Our national life is burdened with the sin of injustice. Millions live in insecurity and poverty while others spend their substance in riotous living. Those who possess authority love power more than justice and use their fellow men as tools of their own desires. The cry of the needy arouses us only slightly from our selfish indifference.

We acknowledge that the world's sin is our own; that the greed which we condemn when it results in inhumanity is in our own heart; that the world is unjust because none of us love justice with sufficient abandon; that the vices of civilization are compounded of the lusts of all of us. Give us grace to look into our own hearts before we cast a stone of condemnation.

May we achieve the grace of true humility in thy presence so that we may cease to defeat thy will for the world by our self-will. May the vision of what we might be convict us of what we are so that thy mercy may redeem us. Amen.

REINHOLD NIEBUHR

✻ *Deliverance from Insensitiveness* ✻

Merciful Father, we come to thee confessing the sins of our civilization, in which we all have shared. We have been so bent upon our selfish ends that we would not stop to have mercy. When we have seen those whom the injustices of the world have bruised and beaten, we have passed by on the other side. We have built around ourselves the walls of privilege, within which we might not hear the passion of exploited men, the weeping of women, the bitter cry of children robbed of happy youth.

O God of truth, make us understand.
O God of judgment, wake us to repentance.
O God of mercy, make us fit to ask for thy forgiveness, before it is too late. Amen.

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE

✻ *A Litany of the Kingdom* ✻

O Lord, who hast set before us the great hope that thy kingdom shall come on earth, and hast taught us to pray for its coming, make us ever ready to thank thee for the signs of its dawning, and to pray and work for that perfect day when thy will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven:

For the work of thy spirit within and beyond the bounds of the visible church,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the history of the world, through peaceful advance, and through pain and tumult,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the history of our country, through its heroes and leaders, in statecraft, law, and industry,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the steady triumph of truth over error,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the growing desire for true brotherhood, between men of every class and nation,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the deepening sense of human worth in all nations and classes, and in the growing reverence for womanhood and childhood,

We thank thee, O Lord.

For the work of thy spirit in the church, which will not cease until it join all nations and kindred and tongues and people in one great family, to thy praise and glory,

We thank thee, O Lord.

A Book of Prayers for Students

✻ *A Vision for Our Country* ✻

O God, grant us a vision of our land, fair as she might be; a land of justice, where none shall prey on others; a land of plenty, where vice and poverty shall cease to fester; a land of brotherhood, where all success shall be founded on service, and honor shall be given to nobleness alone; a land of peace, where order shall not rest on force, but on the love of all for the land, the great mother of the common life and weal. Hear thou, O Lord, the silent prayer of all our hearts, as we pledge our time and strength and thought to speed the day of her coming beauty and righteousness.

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

✻ *For the Nation* ✻

Creator and Ruler of mankind,
We pray thee this day for our country,
That her new life may be established and built up in thyself,
That all hatred and malice,
All indifference to the sufferings of others,
All narrow exclusiveness and selfish greed,
May be swept away by the breath of thy spirit:
And that public spirit, honor, and justice,
Cooperation in service, self-sacrifice for the good of the whole people,
May flourish abundantly amongst us.

We pray thee also for ourselves,
That thou wilt forge us into tools meet for the service of our country:
Burn from us all selfishness and pride:
Purify us from all baseness:
Fill us with thy divine passion
To uplift the weak,
To sweep away oppression and wrong,
To give to every man, even to the lowest and most degraded,
The opportunity of a full life
That may be lived to thy glory and to the service of mankind.

J. S. HOYLAND

✻ *Our Country* ✻

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom, in thy Name, we entrust the authority of government; that there may be justice and peace at home, and that through obedience to thy laws we may show forth thy praise among the nations of earth. In time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer

✻ *Our Country* ✻

God of the nations, we come to thee in humble petition for our nation:

For the honest rights of the men and women who do the labor of the world;
For the clean ambition of upright employers;
For integrity in government and in the halls of legislation;
For places where all the children, rich and poor, can play;
For the care of the sick and the prevention of disease and pain;
For the beauty of the cleansed countryside and the glory of redeemed cities;
For the enrichment of our schools;
For the purity of undefiled religion in our churches:

These, O God, are our desires and our prayer for our nation, in thee. Amen.

PERCY R. HAYWARD

✻ *For the Unemployed* ✻

By Thy Providence, O Lord,
We are placed upon a kindly earth.
Only our actions spoil the heritage Thou hast given us,
Only dullness and greed
Cause brothers and sisters to suffer the pangs of want.
Teach us so to order the fabric of this world's work
That no willing hands hang empty,
No feet be halted,
No mind sink into black despair.
Make tender our hearts to care for the needy,
Make strong our minds to solve problems which torment and evade us.
Fortify the spirit of those who hear pale children cry for food,
Reinforce the soul of those who watch their sick
In dreary days of poverty,
Undergird the soul of those who are workless
That they may not lose their true estate
In years of forced dependence.
Remember all those who guide the commerce of the nations,
That the pain of brothers and sisters
May not only be lessened,
But that the very reason of poverty
May pass in a time of better knowledge;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GEORGE STEWART

✻ *A Confession of Wrong in Our Society* ✻

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.

We have strayed from our own responsibilities to families and communities, thinking we would thus be free.

We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have been too sentimental and at the same time have followed too much the logic of our minds; we have built great universities to search out truth, then hidden behind their ivied walls protecting ourselves from strife and danger.

We have offended against thy holy laws.

We have allowed our communities and nations to respect selfishness and injustice and have washed our hands of the "due process of law."

We have left undone those things which we ought to have done.

We have been irresponsible in our economic life and allowed unrighteousness to hold sway in politics and the struggle for power.

And we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

We have lived at the expense of our poorer brothers at home and abroad; we have used the terrible destructiveness of science against our enemies.

And there is no health in us.

There is conflict in the depths of our souls which has driven us into sickness of mind and body.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable

offenders, who have considered ourselves untainted by the evil of our modern world.

Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults,

Be they personal, social, cultural or religious sins.

Restore thou those who are penitent and would change both themselves and their society according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord, through whom together we are raised up into thy kingdom on earth and in heaven.

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, ordered by thy law and freed by thy grace.

To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Intercollegian

✻ *For a Religion That Has Come of Age* ✻

Grant us, O God, the will to draw
All mankind within the compass of our thought,
To receive our brothers
Of every creed as equals,
To share their truths,
To respect their prophets,
To grasp their wisdom.

Redeem us from the snobbery
That has caused us to
Live shut off from the universal
Revelation of mankind's search for thee.

How feeble and fragmentary
Are our insights.
Grant us humility
And wider horizons.
Through tolerant and inquiring minds,
Through graciousness and mutuality,
May we learn to live and work with
Our friends of varying creeds.

Through new eagerness and effort
May we come together
And stand together for
Justice, liberty, peace, and fellowship
For people in every corner of the earth. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *For World Peace* ✻

Almighty Father, it is thou who deliverest from evil the frail children of earth. We thank thee with all our hearts for present deliverance from many scourges that have long afflicted thy creatures, and from the dread of them. Make us strong and eager to fight the evils and wrongs not yet overcome. Help us to resist selfishness, greed, and evil passions in ourselves and in others. Help us to seek peace and pursue it, peace among nations and in communities and families; to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thee. Teach us to see the infinite beauty and abounding love in the world, and to look up with adoration and answering love to thy perfect love and goodness.

CHARLES W. ELIOT

✻ *A Litany for All Workers* ✻

O God, who hast made us a royal priesthood, that we might offer unto thee prayer and intercession for all sorts and conditions of men, hear us as we pray:

For all who toil in the burden and the heat of the day, that they may enjoy the rewards of their industry, that they may not be defrauded of their due, and that we may never cease to be mindful of our debt to them, remembering with gratitude the multitude of services which must be performed to make our life tolerable:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

For those who have authority and power over their fellow men, that they may not use it for selfish advantage, but be guided to do justice and to love mercy:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

For those who have been worsted in the battles of life, whether by the inhumanity of their fellows, their own limitations, or the fickleness of fortune, that they may contend against injustice without bitterness, overcome their own weakness with diligence, and learn how to accept what cannot be altered with patience:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

For the rulers of the nations that they may act wisely and without pride, may seek to promote peace among the peoples and establish justice in our common life:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

For teachers and ministers of the word, for artists and interpreters of our spiritual life, that they may rightly divine the

word of truth, and not be tempted by pride or greed or any ignoble passion to corrupt the truth to which they are committed:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

For prophets and seers and saints, who awaken us from our sloth, that they may continue to hold their torches high in a world darkened by prejudice and sin, and ever be obedient to the heavenly vision:

We pray thy grace and pledge our concern, O God.

O Lord, who hast bound us together in this bundle of life, give us grace to understand how our lives depend upon the courage, the industry, the honesty and integrity of our fellow men; that we may be mindful of their needs, grateful for their faithfulness, and faithful in our responsibilities to them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

REINHOLD NIEBUHR

✻ *For the Cooperative Commonwealth* ✻

O God, we praise thee for the dream of the golden city of peace and righteousness which has ever haunted the prophets of humanity, and we rejoice with joy unspeakable that at last the people have conquered the freedom and knowledge and power which may avail to turn into reality the vision that so long has beckoned in vain.

Speed now the day when the plains and the hills and the wealth thereof shall be the people's own, and thy freemen shall not live as tenants of men on the earth which thou hast given to all; when no babe shall be born without its equal birthright in the riches and knowledge wrought out by the labor of the ages; and when the mighty engines of industry shall throb with a gladder music because the men who ply these great tools shall be their owners and masters.

Bring to an end, O Lord, the inhumanity of the present, in which all men are ridden by the pale fear of want while the nation of which they are citizens sits throned amid the wealth of their making; when the manhood in some is cowed by helplessness, while the soul of others is surfeited and sick with power which no frail son of the dust should wield.

O God, save us, for our nation is at strife with its own soul and is sinning against the light which thou aforetime hast kindled in it. Thou hast called our people to freedom, but we are withholding from men their share in the common heritage without which freedom becomes a hollow name. Thy Christ has kindled in us the passion for brotherhood,

but the social life we have built, denies and slays brotherhood.

We pray thee to revive in us the hardy spirit of our forefathers that we may establish and complete their work, building on the basis of their democracy the firm edifice of a cooperative commonwealth, in which both government and industry shall be of the people, by the people, and for the people. May we, who now live, see the oncoming of the great day of God, when all men shall stand side by side in equal worth and real freedom, all toiling and all reaping, masters of nature but brothers of men, exultant in the tide of the common life, and jubilant in the adoration of thee, the source of their blessings and the Father of all.

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH

✻ *For the Spiritual Fatherland* ✻

For the finer spirits of the world there are two dwelling places: our earthly fatherland and the City of God. Of the one we are the guests, of the other the builders. To the first we give our lives and our faithful hearts; but neither family, friend, nor fatherland, nor aught that we love has power over the spirit.

The spirit comes from thy light, O God. It is our duty to lift it above tempests, and thrust aside the clouds which threaten to obscure it; to build higher and stronger, dominating the injustice and hatred of nations, the walls of thy city wherein the souls of the whole world may assemble.

Creator of mankind, what have I to do with the nations created by men? Can I love or hate a nation? It is men whom I love or hate, and in all nations I find the noble, the base, and the ordinary man. If there is one man who is dear to me in a whole nation, that prevents me from condemning it.

I am not of one nation or race. I belong to life as a whole. I have brothers in every nation, enemy or ally, and those life would thrust upon me as compatriots are not always the nearest. The families of our souls are scattered through the world. Help us to reunite them, O God.

ROMAIN ROLLAND

❊ *Brotherhood* ❊

O thou who hast been worshiped under many names and rites by men throughout the centuries, we recognize thee as the God of all nations and races. We thank thee for the prophets of all faiths who have taught us to dwell together in brotherhood. Forgive us for our failure to follow their ideals, for ignorance of other religions that causes us to feel superior, for the prejudice that makes us dislike those who are different from us, for the narrow creeds that divide us, and for the persecutions and wars that intolerant men have waged against their fellows.

As we look back upon the years, shame and sorrow overcome us. The strife and destruction that have resulted because of our failure to obey the law of love rise up to shame us. Inspire us to unite our efforts to uphold the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. May we join hands, without regard for class, creed, or color, and labor together to overcome prejudice and violence. Help us to concentrate on our common needs and desires, that we may achieve progress and freedom for all men.

O God who hast given us the commandment to love one another, give us the will and the strength to fulfill it. Direct our lives so that we may look upon the good of others. Enlarge our minds until they are broad enough to include all thy children. Create within us a passion for righteousness, that peace may be established on our earth. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *Symphony of Life* ✻

Father, we call thee *Father* because we love thee. We are glad to be called thy children, and to dedicate our lives to the service that extends through willing hearts and hands to the betterment of all mankind. We send up our cry of thanksgiving for people of all races, creeds, classes, and colors the world over, and pray that through the instrumentality of our lives the spirit of peace, joy, fellowship, and brotherhood shall circle the world.

We know that this world is filled with discordant notes, but help us, Father, to so unite our efforts that we may all join in one harmonious symphony for peace and brotherhood, justice and equality of opportunity, for all men.

The tasks performed today with forgiveness for all our errors, we dedicate, dear Lord, to thee. Grant us strength and courage and faith and humility sufficient for the tasks assigned to us. Amen.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE

✻ *For National Wisdom* ✻

O Lord our God, what nation is righteous in thy sight? From all the face of the earth the blood of nations calls unto thee. Those who have not borne arms have grown rich through the blood of others. We have preferred human security to thy righteousness. We have dishonored our pledged word. We have said: Peace! where there was only deception and desire for profit.

Lord, pardon and save us. Let us not be consumed in our own iniquity. For man's power to destroy is unlimited and we are lost if thou forsake us.

Lord, preserve us from any false peace which would be an evasion of reality. Save us from compromising silence. Let us never become resigned to evil nor abandon the world to the powers of falsehood and hatred which destroy it. Give us a spirit of wisdom, prudence, and courage whenever we take a stand for what we think to be righteousness and truth.

Thou who in days of old didst raise up the prophets, give the Church in our day the steadfast witnesses which she needs.

For the love and glory of thy name. Amen.

SUZANNE DE DIETRICH

✻ *How Can I Help?* ✻

Invisible, yet ever present spirit of God, thou hast a plan for me, a blueprint to guide my life. And thou dost yearn to tell me what that plan is, but my ears are dull and I cannot hear the inner voice. Help me to seek thy leadership and guidance.

I pray that the leaders of my nation and of all the nations may seek thy direction until limited outlooks and prides are replaced by wider horizons. I pray that all countries may find a way to abandon the curse of war that threatens the human race, and advance toward disarmament and peace.

Help us who possess so much of the world's wealth to share with those who go to bed hungry every night. May we reach out in brotherly love and help the millions who seek to rise out of ignorance, hunger, and hopeless want. May our fellow men find thy spirit revealed in our compassion and march forward with new hope and courage. *Amen.*

FRANK C. LAUBACH

✻ *Interdependence* ✻

Almighty God, Eternal Spirit, we for whom thou art the only hope of life, acknowledge our need of thee now.

By the skill of head and hand, man has shortened the distance between the homes of his fellows, till all on our globe are now neighbors.

Help us, O God, joyful spirit of universal love, to make this new closeness a blessing to us all. Help us to believe in our heart's core that none of us can know joy, safety, content, if others do not know hope.

By the skill of head and hand, man has brought forth such wealth of material goods as no other generation has known. Help us to know that none of us is safe in the enjoyment of our man-made wealth if all cannot have a share.

Almighty God, move us to put our whole trust in thee and thy all-powerful spirit of love. May we draw from thee that faith in the human spirit which alone gives meaning to efforts for the common good. Inspire us with that universal faith in the might of goodness, which means wholeness and life for all human souls. Amen.

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER

✻ *Sacred Brotherhood* ✻

O God, our Father, who hast sent Jesus and other prophets as a covenant with thy people to serve as a light to the nations, mercifully look upon the distractions and division of the world and stretch out thy healing hand to us and complete the work of thy salvation.

Revive and renew thy church everywhere with thy spirit, that it may show forth clearly thy gifts in all its life, and that by thy power it may participate in thy redeeming and reconciling efforts. May the Christian fellowship be used by thee to unite the world in a sacred brotherhood of nations wherein justice, mercy, faith, truth, love, and freedom may prevail and flourish, that thy precepts may be glorified unto the ends of the earth, through Jesus Christ who is our peace. Amen.

C. H. HWANG

✻ *The Freedom of Mankind* ✻

God of the free, we pledge our lives and hearts today to the cause of all free mankind.

Grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men and nations. Grant us faith and understanding to cherish all those who fight for freedom as if they were our

brothers. Grant us brotherhood in hope and union, not only for the space of this bitter war, but for the days to come which shall and must unite all the children of the earth.

Our earth is but a small star in the great universe. Yet, of it we can make, if we choose, a planet unvexed by war, untroubled by hunger and fear, undivided by senseless distinctions of race, color, or theory. Grant us that courage and foreseeing to begin this task today so that our children and our children's children may be proud of the name of man. . . .

Yet most of all, grant us brotherhood, not only for this day but for all our years—a brotherhood not of words, but of acts and deeds. We are all of us children of earth—grant us that simple knowledge. If our brothers are oppressed, then we are oppressed. If they hunger, we hunger. If their freedom is taken away, our freedom is not secure. Grant us a common faith that man shall know bread and peace—that he shall know justice and righteousness, freedom and security, and an equal opportunity and an equal chance to do his best, not only in our lands, but throughout the world. And in that faith let us march toward the clean world our hands can make. Amen.

STEPHEN VINCENT BENÉT

✻ *In Every Temple and Tongue* ✻

Oh Lord, in every temple
I see those that seek Thee.

And in every tongue that is spoken
I hear Thee praised.

The belief in the many and the faith in the one
are but gropings after Thee.

"Thou art unique," cries each believer,
"Thou art without peer."

Be it a mosque, the prayers are in Thine honor.
Be it a church, the bells ring forth Thy praise.
Awhile I frequent the Christian cloisters;
again the mosque;

But Thee alone I seek from fane to fane.
What are heresy and dogma to Thy elect?
Shall they seek shelter behind a screen
when Thy truth is manifest?

Heresy for the heretic, dogma for the dogmatic.
But the essence of the rose petals is the balm
for the rose-gatherer's heart.

ABDUL FAZL

✻ *One Family* ✻

Our Father, creator and sustainer of all that lives, we seek thy presence in a world distraught, thy love and healing in a world of enmity and hatred. Thou hast made of one blood all the people of mankind to dwell together as a family upon the face of the earth. We come to thee for strength to break down the barriers that hold men apart, and to fashion unity amidst the diversity of creed and race and nation. Make us conscious of our common humanity.

May those who are strong withhold no opportunity from the weak; those who are powerful keep none in subjection. Make us quick to recognize the talents of those of races other than our own and to give to all the honor that is their due. Forbid that we should belie the faith we proclaim, that all men are equal, by denying to those of other religious convictions and racial ties the rights which we claim for ourselves. Crown all our good with brotherhood. To thee be the honor and the glory.

And now may the search for that which is true, the love of that which is beautiful, the enjoyment of that which is just and good possess our hearts and minds as they have ennobled and enriched the lives of the great of every age. Amen.

EVERETT ROSS CLINCHY

❊ *A Kingdom of Kindness* ❊

O God, why do we go to the sacred Ganges to purify ourselves in holy water when the ocean of love is around us always? Let us bathe in thy eternal love. Since religions reach the ocean of truth by different river beds, the members of one faith should never despise those of another way. May we never close our ears to the truths of other creeds or thy new truths that unfold in our time.

All things belong to thee, O God. There is nothing in the world we can really call our own. Help us to remember that our lives, our homes, and our land are part of the world's life. Save us from arrogance and make us friends and helpers of the lowliest. Strip us of the love of power and enlist us in renunciation for the sake of human service. We know that the age of love cannot be brought about by force or law, but only through our personal caring and sharing.

Make us true revolutionaries in a revolution based not on hatred and bloodshed but rather upon the power of love. Inspire us to share our property with the landless and the needy. May the whole of our society rise together to eliminate humanity's wretchedness.

Teach us, our father, to express kindness to all our fellow men and help create a kingdom of kindness. Through our active love alleviate the miseries of the poor and also cleanse and purify our own minds and hearts.

Save us from retaliation and revenge and help us to trust the power of self-denial and gentleness. We know that

the law of retaliation multiplies evil while only the law of love solves conflict.

Enlist us in a peace army that will work under the banner of love until we conquer the misery and strife of the world.

VINOBA BHAVE

❊ *Infinitude of Truth* ❊

O God, our searchings after truth are like the brooks that flow to the rivers and mingle at last in the sea. They come from one source and are bound for one ultimate goal. Our many creeds are like the sparkling points on the prism of truth, all revealing some facet of the eternal splendor of divine reality.

Save us from confusing our one ray of light with the infinitude of thy sun, and our partial revelation with the ultimate unfolding of thy glory. Liberate us from arrogance as we recall the prophets of many centuries and the obligation we owe them.

Release us from the suspicion and pride that align us against brothers of other faiths. Bring to an end the era of schism among the religions of our world. Guide us into cooperation on a global scale in a united crusade against poverty, disease, illiteracy, and war, in a mighty constructive demonstration of brotherhood and social conscience.

Bring thy children together, O Father of us all. Amen.

ROBERT MERRILL BARTLETT

✻ *For Peace Among the Nations* ✻

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth; forgive us that in our day the nations have gone after strange gods, worshiping the State and offering human sacrifice to War.

We would have no other gods before Thee. Yet behind the armaments of nations, beneath all the glitter of military pomp and circumstance, we see the lurking shadow of the god of War ready to fan the flames of hate whilst he takes unhallowed toll in human blood.

O God of love, unite in opposition to war all those who worship Thee throughout the world. Grant that each may love his native land, and obey her laws up to the point where obedience to man would be disobedience to God. Give us ever the higher courage to take our stand with Thee.

Send now Thy Holy Spirit upon us. Grant us wisdom in our time to build a warless world. Help us to search out and to remove the causes of war. Teach us so to control our economic life that profit in arms, pressure for markets and materials, and selfish interests of finance shall no longer destroy the peace of the world.

Rebuke also the pride and greed of race and clan, the vainglory of men, and the lust for empire which lead to war. Make the nations to know themselves to be but men. Teach them that the wages of sin is death. May they repent and turn again. Guide them into paths of righteousness and peace.

Help us to build the machinery of peace in court and covenant and league; in the parliament of man and the federation of the world. Give us grace to use these means not alone for prevention of war, but in brotherly provision for the needs of all peoples.

Our Father, remove from our own hearts the seeds of war, all enmity, selfishness, and strife. Give us humility and goodwill toward every man. May Thy Kingdom come within us, that we may bear more moving witness to the way of love.

O God, give us peace.

JAMES MYERS

✻ *The United Nations* ✻

Our Father, thou God of all the nations upon the face of the earth, whose will is justice and peace, we confess that we have often loved our own way better than justice and are sometimes eager for peace at great costs others must pay. So wars and hatreds and anguish have come to men and nations. Forgive these sins and turn us from all evil ways.

As citizens of this land so richly blessed by thee, give us courage, poise, and imaginative love sufficient to carry well the burden of leadership our wealth and power have laid upon us. Teach us to use this strength with patience and restraint, knowing that we are accountable not to ourselves alone but to thee and to all mankind.

We pray thy blessing upon the United Nations and all the representatives there who seek peace and justice through it. As we use this human instrument, guard us from discouragement that would give up hope and from idolatry that would confuse even our best efforts with thy perfect will. Keep us from the impatience that would turn us away from international cooperation; give us humility sufficient to learn from others' judgments and such restraint as will draw the nations to us in common pursuit of peace and freedom.

We acknowledge thee, O God, as the sovereign ruler over all men and nations and pray for the establishment of that City which hath foundations whose builder and ruler thou art. Amen.

EUGENE CARSON BLAKE

❊ *These Times* ❊

Our God, the unconquerable spirit in man:

Help us to rebuild the world for more splendid lives than ours; add wisdom to the ardor of the young and loving kindness to the musings of the old; make our eyes aware of those things which are too gentle to proclaim themselves; give us emotion far beyond the fret of nerves.

Free us from all fear of our brothers, and from the triple curse of greed, intolerance, and vainglory.

Lift the dark cloud of war from our future, and grant comfort to all quiet, kindly folk who carry peace in their hearts amid the stress of conflict; strengthen them also to endure what may befall. Bring down the tyrant; befriend the victim of injustice, and equate the rewards of labor nearer to the needs of man; accustom us to work not for the snatched profit but for the common good and for the planned destiny of mankind.

Give patience to those who wait restlessly for this, and hope to those who have ceased to believe it will come; and fill our hearts with faith in a kingdom of heaven which our children's children may someday find on earth. Amen.

Think on These Things

✻ *God of Grace and God of Glory* ✻

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
Crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christlike graces in the fight to set men free.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor thee, that we fail not man nor thee.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

Serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK

❊ *Let There Be Light* ❊

Let there be light, Lord God of Hosts;
Let there be wisdom on the earth!
Let broad humanity have birth;
Let there be deeds, instead of boasts!

Within our passioned hearts instill
The calm that endeth stress and strife;
Make us thy ministers of life;
Purge us from lusts that curse and kill!

Give us the peace of vision clear
To see our brother's good our own,
To joy and suffer not alone;
The love that casteth out all fear!

Let woe and waste of warfare cease,
That useful labor yet may build
Its homes with love and laughter filled;
God, give thy wayward children peace!

Then, let Thy Kingdom be our goal;
Thy love our shield from every sin;
Thy Spirit's still small voice within
Our guide for body, mind and soul!

MERRELL VORIES HITOTSUYANAGI

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